

# Monthly NEWS



May 2019

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry  
[www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)

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

It's all about World Bee Day this edition!



Honey tasting at World Bee Day celebrations in The Great Hall, Parliament House in Canberra on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Pictured left to right, AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald, AHBIC Executive member Peter Barnes, retired AHBIC Executive Director Trevor Weatherhead with wife Marion Weatherhead.



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## 2019 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	31 May - Bribie Island, 8am
Victorian Apiarists Association	4,5 & 6 June - Mildura
South Australian Apiarists Association	10-11 June – Adelaide
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 May 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  
When Bee Foundation

### GOLD PLUS

Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd  
Sterling Kershaw & Co

### GOLD

Australian Honey Products P/L  
Aust Manuka 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 Gerdt)  
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies  
Bricknell, Jack  
Briggs, David  
Clifford, David  
Cooper, Barry  
Curless, David  
Dewar, Paula  
Frost, Liz  
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  
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)  
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  
Godman, Phil  
Honeylife Australia  
Knox, Kathy  
Verrenkamp, Leonard  
West-Bee Honey

### NON-PUBLISHED Value

Faithful, Mark  
Geelong Beekeepers Club  
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers  
Hibberd, GL & HK, HSH Apiary  
Leemon, Diana  
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

## MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA, EILEEN McDONALD



Mrs Eileen McDonald  
Photo credit: Midland Express

A very big congratulations to Mrs Eileen McDonald (AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald's mum) for being recognised with an OAM for service to the community of Mount Alexander and to apiculture on the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honour List. Well done Eileen on such a great achievement; the honey bee industry greatly appreciates your contribution.

### MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Mrs Eileen McDONALD**, VIC 3451

For service to the community of Mount Alexander, and to apiculture.

#### **Bendigo Branch Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc**

- President, 2006-2007.
- Secretary, 2015-2016, 2009-2011 and 2007-2008.
- Assistant Secretary, 2013-2015.

#### **Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc**

- Organiser, Annual Conference Competition trophies, 1989-2009.
- Member, Executive Council, 1996-2004.
- Life Member, since 1988.

#### **Crop Pollination Association Inc.**

- Inaugural Secretary/Newsletter Editor 1992.
- Member, Executive Committee, 2003-2004.
- President, Victorian Farmers' Federation Beekeeper Branch, 2014-2015.

#### **Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group**

- Co-Donor of 2.7 hectares of land, 2011.
- Minute Secretary, since 2013.

#### **Winters Flat Primary School**

- Member, Parents' Club, 1966-1985 and President, 1980-1982.
- Vice President, School Council, 1985 and Member, 1984-1985.

#### **Castlemaine Technical College**

- Member, Parents' Club, 1973-1992.
- President, Parent's Club, 1984-1987 and Secretary, 1978-1980.
- Parent Representative, College Council, 1975-1992.

#### **Castlemaine High School**

- Member, Parents' Club, 1978-1985 and President, 1983-1984.
- Parent Representative, College Council, 1984-1986.

#### **1st Castlemaine Pioneer Scout Group, Scouts Victoria**

- Member, Group Committee, 1969-1992.
- Assistant Group Leader, 1972-1992.
- Publicity Officer, 1982-1992.
- Group representative, Op Shop Committee, 1983-1989.
- Co-Organiser, 22 Annual Hattah Scout Camps.
- Publicity Officer, Campaspe District Scout Association, 1985-1990.

#### **Other**

- Volunteer, REAL Literacy Program, Castlemaine Secondary College, 2001-2003.
- Representative, Bendigo District Council, Victorian Federation State Schools Parents' Clubs, 1981-1985.
- Foster Carer, St Luke's Foster Care, 1989-1994.

#### **Awards and recognition includes:**

- Mount Alexander Shire Citizen of the Year, 2017.

Source: [The Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours List](#)



## NOTE FROM CEO, SARAH PARADICE



The state conferences have been in full swing and we've been travelling to them all presenting the AHBIC report and meeting as many of you as possible. The ones we have attended to date have been fantastic, informative speakers, lively discussions and questions from engaged audiences with plenty of networking opportunities. As a result of all the travel, this May edition will be a short newsletter with the promise of more to come in the June edition. Chair Peter McDonald will also report again in the June edition.

This May edition will focus on World Bee Day events held across Australia with particular mention of the fabulous activities held in Canberra, many of which both Peter and I were able to attend. After the success of last year, this was only the second official UN World Bee Day.

As stated on the new Australian [World Bee Day](#) website, 'On 20 December 2017, following three years of efforts at the international level, the UN Member States unanimously approved a proposal by Slovenia to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day. In May, the northern hemisphere sees bees and nature develop profusely, while the southern hemisphere enters autumn, when hive products are harvested and the season of honey and honey-based products begins. In addition, 20 May is the birth date of [Anton Janša](#) (1734–1773), a Slovenian beekeeper, the [pioneer of modern beekeeping](#) and one of the greatest authorities on the subject of bees. The Austrian Empress Maria Theresa appointed him to the post of permanent teacher of apiculture at the new School of Beekeeping in Vienna. He became well known even before his death in 1773. After 1775, all state beekeeping teachers had to teach the subject in accordance with his teachings and methods. The purpose of World Bee day is to raise awareness of the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy. It provides an opportunity for governments, organisations, civil society and concerned citizens everywhere to promote actions that will protect and enhance pollinators and their habitats, improve their abundance and diversity, and support the sustainable development of beekeeping.'

To enable the public to attend, the majority of World Bee Day (WBD) events were held over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May in Canberra. At the Canberra Capital Region Farmers Markets on Saturday, 18 May 2019, there was a focus on honey and the importance of bees to food production. It included a honey breakfast with fresh, wholesome produce; a large display of hives, native plants and their growers; honey tasting; local and regional honey producers and experts giving advice.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, there was an international honey tasting event held from 9am – 12noon in the Great Hall at Parliament House. As pictured on the front of this newsletter, AHBIC had a stall and provided assistance with honey tasting. Thanks to Trevor and Marion Weatherhead for providing expert advice on all things relating to bees and honey as they assisted the public with questions and taste honey samples. On the AHBIC table we had samples from Hive and Wellness, Queen of Hearts Honey (Yass, NSW), Castlemaine Honey (Vic), King Bee Honey (Riverina, NSW) amongst others. In total, there were six tables showcasing honey to sample and thanks to all who donated honey including Beechworth and donations from across the globe including the three key embassies involved in organising WBD, Slovenian, Swedish and Swiss embassies. There were also many other interesting trade displays including one from [Dr John Roberts](#) a CSIRO research scientist who focusses on pests and diseases of honeybees and demonstration of extraction of honey from beehives on Parliament House.



Opening address in The Great Hall, Parliament House with addresses by Ambassadors from Slovenia, Switzerland (speaking), and Sweden. Ambassadors pictured with MC Cormac Farrell.

This event in the morning was followed by an afternoon Bee Sustainable Family Picnic hosted at The Embassy of Sweden in Yarralumla by The Nordic Embassies of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Estonia. This was an educational and fun-filled event for all ages and included

- a tipsrunda (Swedish for quiz walk) around the garden with interactive educational stands on beekeeping, beehives, honey tasting, honey bees, native bees, bees in your garden, bees under the microscope, plants for bees
- talks on bees in the world, bees in your garden and bees for food security
- BYO Nudie (no rubbish) picnic shared with family and/or friends on the Embassy Grounds
- children's games and activities, Nordic dancing, Nordic live music and Nordic National Dress
- The Science of Bees panel discussion with Dr Amy Paten, CSIRO, Dr Peter Abbot & Bush Blitz, Native Bee

Canberra Autumn weather was kind making this a great family event for the public.

On conclusion of the family picnic, the Embassy of Switzerland hosted a free screening of the multi award-winning documentary MORE THAN HONEY at the Parliament Theatre, Parliament House. The film was then followed by a short panel discussion with

- Dr Francisco Sanchez-Bayo: Honorary Associate Institute of Agriculture, University of Sydney
- Dr Romina Rader: Pollination Research Scientist, University of New England
- Mr Peter McDonald: Chair, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

At the conclusion of the event, the Swiss Embassy treated all guests to a reception in the Parliament House Foyer. We were thrilled to have AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald as part of this discussion and there was an opportunity at the end of the discussion from the audience.





Panel discussion at Parliament Theatre, Parliament House, Canberra. Pictured left from right, MC Cormac Farrell, AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald, Dr Romina Radar and Dr Francisco Sanchez-Bayo.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Their Excellencies General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Lady Cosgrove hosted a reception at Government House Canberra to celebrate World Bee Day. The Governor-General spoke of the importance of bees, followed by AHBIC Executive member Jodie Goldsworthy as President of Apimondia Oceania Commission with a note of thanks given by AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald. Approximately 100 guests were treated with canapes hinting of honey and/or bee pollinated foods as well as honey tasting from the hives at Government House.



On the steps at the entrance of Government House, pictured front row left to right, Dr Max Whitten, Ms Jodie Goldsworthy, His Excellency, Jurij Rifelj, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove, His Excellency, Mr Pedro Zwahlen, Ambassador of Switzerland, AHBIC Chair Mr Peter McDonald. Back row left to right, Ms Lana Alkrunz, ACT Government Ministers Chris Steel MLA, Mick Gentleman MLA and Shane Rattenbury MLA

World Bee Day activities in Canberra generated plenty of media interest so feel free to click, read/listen and enjoy:

- 11 May Canberra Times, [World Bee Day: There's a buzz in Parliament House](#) by Steve Evans
- 17 May, [FAO Director-General's message on World Bee Day 2019 - YouTube](#)
- 19 May, SBS Australia, [Today marks the first ever UN World Bee Day!](#) There's one country already leading the fight to save the endangered species
- 20 May, SBS Australia, [Today \(May 20\) marks the second World Bee Day](#)
- 20 May, [Win News Canberra](#), It's only in its second year but World Bee Day is already creating quite the buzz. Celebrations have been held across the country as interest in keeping bees increases and the fight to save the species ramps up
- 20 May, Yass Tribune, [World Bee Day 2019 keeps local beekeepers busy](#) by Hannah Sparks
- 20 May RTR FM 92.1 [World Bee Day](#) by Jeff Bullem
- 20 May, Vox, [20 photos of bees that will make you say, "Damn, bees are beautiful"](#) Bees are crafty intelligent creatures by Brian Resnick
- 11 June, [Kitchen Garden: Quite the buzz on Bee Day](#) by Susan Parsons, Canberra Times

A very special thanks to all involved in organising the Canberra activities, Fiona Chambers and Wheen Bee Foundation, Cormac Farrell and Canberra Regional Beekeepers, Rotary and the Slovenian, Swiss and Swedish Embassies; simply a super group of people to work with and AHBIC enjoyed being involved.

#### **Upcoming meetings for AHBIC Executive and/or CEO**

- 4<sup>th</sup> June – Plant Health Australia Harmonisation Teleconference, 10am – 1pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> June – CCEPP teleconference
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June – Victorian Apiarist Association conference, Mildura
- 5<sup>th</sup> June – meeting with Ross Skinner, Almond Board of Australia, Rob Wheatley Austin Group, Ian Cane
- 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June - SAAA conference, Adelaide
- 11<sup>th</sup> June – teleconference re AHB detection, DAF Queensland
- 13<sup>th</sup> June – Agrifutures meeting, Honey Bee Genetic Improvement Program, Melbourne
- 14<sup>th</sup> June – PHA meeting, Industry Funding Weights for *Varroa jacobsoni*
- 18<sup>th</sup> June – PHA meeting, regular fortnightly meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> June - Australian Forest Products Association Industry dinner
- 20<sup>th</sup> June - teleconference re AHB detection, DAF Queensland
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Tasmanian Beekeepers Association conference, Launceston
- 29<sup>th</sup> June – AHBIC AGM, Executive meeting, Launceston
- 30<sup>th</sup> June & 1<sup>st</sup> July – AHBIC Resource Workshop, Launceston

#### **SUSPECTED VARROA MITE ON ASIAN HONEY BEE, TOWNSVILLE PORT**

There has been a new detection of Asian Honey Bee's at the Townville Port which is unrelated to the 2016 detection; the 2016 detection is close to proof of freedom phase. Since the 2019 detection, industry has been working closely with authorities to manage the response and we would like to acknowledge and thank Trevor Weatherhead for his assistance. We would also like to thank Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer Dr Kim Ritman, Plant Health Australia and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP), Salvo Vitelli and his dedicated team at DPI Queensland for their response to this new detection and working closely with industry.



## SUSPECTED VARROA MITE ON ASIAN HONEY BEE, TOWNSVILLE PORT contd.

### Current situation

- As part of the exotic bee surveillance program, an Asian honey bee nest was located on 16 May 2019 at the Townsville Port as a result of bee lining activities. Bee lining is a technique used to track foraging bees back to their nest.
- On 17 May 2019, the nest was fumigated and collected from a rooftop at the Townsville Port.
- The nest was located approximately 80 metres from where 12 Asian honey bee drones were collected in April 2019 from feed stations that were specifically established for bee monitoring activities.
- The combs and bees collected from the nest were sent to the Brisbane Biosecurity Science Laboratory (BSL) on 20 May 2019 where suspect mites were identified.
- The suspect mites were sent to the CSIRO's laboratory in Canberra for identification to species level. Initial results have indicated the mite specimens are *Varroa jacobsoni*.
- The BSL requested assistance from apiary specialists to assess the comb. During the examination by industry personnel, the comb was estimated to be three or possibly four months old. Three queen bee cells were found, with one still having the hinged cap intact. Eggs and larvae up to three days old were also found, along with one queen bee.
- BSL has confirmed that the comb also had a small hive beetle infestation and evidence of chalkbrood – both of which are considered to be present in Australia.
- On Friday 24 May 2019, an entomologist from the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program identified three suspect Asian honey bee wings from rainbow bee-eater pellets that had been collected from the Townsville Port the previous day. The forewings were forwarded to BSL and were also confirmed as belonging to Asian honey bee.

Genetic testing of Asian honey bee material collected near the port indicates that this Asian honey bee detection is not related to any previous incursion in Australia, including those present in Cairns, or subject of the current national eradication program underway for *Varroa jacobsoni* in Townsville. They are most likely a recent arrival from Papua New Guinea (PNG) or the Solomon Islands, as evidence suggests they are genetically similar to bees collected from PNG between 1992 and 1995.

- This detection of *Varroa jacobsoni* is therefore considered to be a new entry into Australia and is unrelated to the detection in 2016 that is subject to the current national eradication program. Queensland is continuing with its heightened surveillance activities in the Townsville port area. No further detections of Asian honey bee or varroa mite have been made to date.
- The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) has met to discuss this detection and agreed that this *Varroa jacobsoni* incident relates to an Emergency Plant Pest as described under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. It also determined that based on the evidence available to date, this pest is technically feasible to eradicate.
- The committee is considering a response plan that has been put forward by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, which is the lead agency responding to this incident.

### Background

- Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana* Java genotype) is considered established in far north Queensland, with the known infested area extending almost as far south as Tully. Tully is approximately 175km north of Townsville.
- A nationally cost-shared eradication program has been in place following the detection of varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) on Asian honey bee at the Port of Townsville in June 2016. No bees associated with the previous incident have been found since November 2016 and no varroa mites associated with this particular incident have been found since the program began in September 2016.

## Biosecurity and reporting

- Asian honey bees have established in areas of Far North Queensland, but it is important that people look for pests and animals that are unusual.
- If you find something unusual, phone the *See. Secure. Report* hotline on **1800 798 636**. This will connect you with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture which is responsible for biosecurity at our international border.
- The general public can report Asian honey bee detections to the national Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**.
- All bee keepers in Australia should inspect their hives regularly for signs of varroa mite and other exotic pests. If you suspect your bees may have been affected, phone the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**. This will put you in touch with your state or territory's biosecurity agency.
- Information about bee biosecurity, hive care, and photos that will help you identify varroa mite, are available on the [Bee Aware](#) website.

## About Asian honey bees

- The Asian honey bee is approximately 10 mm long with yellow and black stripes on the abdomen. It aggressively protects nesting sites and stings, has a tendency to abscond or 'move' from nests sites. These absconding colonies are believed to be able to travel up to, but no more than 10 km.
- Asian honey bees are the natural host for the *Varroa destructor* and *Varroa jacobsoni* and these mites do not kill colonies of this species of bee. They are species of parasitic mites that feed on the immature and adult bees.
- There are a variety of strains and sub-species of Asian honey bee found throughout Asia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Australia, but the Asian honey bee that is in Australia is *Apis cerana* - Java strain. This strain originates from Indonesia but it is now spread through Papua Province (Indonesia), Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.
- Depending on the location, the bee produces less honey than European honey bees and thrives in the tropics.

## About varroa mites

- The varroa mite (*Varroa destructor* and *Varroa jacobsoni*) is a well-adapted parasite of the Asian honey bee.
- Asian honey bees have evolved with varroa and so are able to live with it. Varroa were mainly found in the northern regions of Asia before shifting hosts from AHB to European honey bees (EHB) when they were introduced to North East Asia.
- Today the *Varroa destructor* mite is responsible for the collapse and death of EHB colonies wherever it is present (if untreated) around the world.
- *Varroa jacobsoni* is currently being eradicated from Townsville, Australia, however *Varroa destructor* is not present in Australia.
- The European honey bee (*Apis mellifera* Linnaeus) is a terminal host for *V. jacobsoni*. However, there is the potential for the European honey bee to be affected if this strain of *V. jacobsoni* becomes competent on this species at some point in the future.



Asian honey bee (left) and European honey bee (right).  
Not to scale. Paul Zborowski



Small nest of Asian honey bee. Queensland DAFF



AHB drone brood with pin-hole sized openings  
Ben Oldroyd, University of Sydney

## SUSPECTED VARROA MITE ON ASIAN HONEY BEE, TOWNSVILLE PORT contd.

We will advise further information as it is released.

Further information:

- [Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources](#)
- [Overview of varroa mites](#)
- [Overview of the Asian honey bee](#)
- [Identifying the Asian honey bee](#)



Varroa mite, Source: [BeeAware](#)

## GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- Please be advised that the AHBIC AGM is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at [Hotel Grand Chancellor](#) in Launceston, Tasmania, from 9am, following the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association 74<sup>th</sup> Conference which is being held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, also at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. We encourage you to come along, **registration is necessary by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** so please scroll down for the registration form.
- A very big welcome to our new Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie; we look forward to working with the Minister in continuing the work of Minister Littleproud and the importance of bees, honey industry and pollination services for food security. Thank you to Minister Littleproud who has been a great supporter of our industry and we look forward to working with him when necessary in his new role of Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management. If interested, click through to the full [Current Ministry List](#), The 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament. We will be following up Minister Littleproud's pre-election promise of a further ~\$1.5 million with Minister McKenzie.
- We also welcome Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie's view to take a hard line on animal activists; beekeepers are listed on the Aussie Farms Repository Map but to date we have not had reports of beekeepers being targeted. '[New Agriculture Minister takes hard line on 'extreme animal activists'](#)' by Darren Gray, Sydney Morning Herald, 21 May 2019
- Australian Manuka honey industry has approved the establishment of a fighting fund to support the future growth and sustainability of the industry. Driven by the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA), the Australian Manuka honey industry has taken a lead in voting in a united manner to fund a levy on Manuka honey production. Funds will be used exclusively to invest in market access and the future research and marketing of this rare antibacterial honey, produced exclusively in the South Pacific. More information, contact [info@manukaaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@manukaaustralia.org.au)
- Australian beekeepers could earn an extra \$1,400 a year by incorporating propolis production into their annual honey harvest, according to a new report commissioned by [AgriFutures Australia](#). Report author and principal consultant, Michael Clarke, from AgEconPlus investigated the status of propolis production in Australia and New Zealand. He worked closely with commercial beekeepers to prove that profitable harvesting of propolis in Australia was possible. In his report, Mr Clarke looks to New Zealand as a valuable model for which to create a thriving propolis industry in Australia. He also highlights the growing interest from companies in sourcing Australian produced propolis and a pathway for Australian beekeepers to enter the market. [Propolis Production: A Potential Boon for the Australian Beekeeping Industry.](#)



- Would you believe a spoonful of honey could change your life? Exciting research, partly funded by our honey levies through [Agrifutures](#), University of Technology Sydney researcher Dr Nural Cokcetin (ithree institute, Faculty of Science) reveals our overall health can be improved with a simple, and sweet daily habit – a tablespoon of honey a day. Dr Cokcetin provided a research update on investigating the medicinal properties of honey – specifically Australian Manuka varieties with high levels of antibacterial activity. [Investigating the medicinal properties of honey A spoonful of honey by Dr Nural Cokcetin](#), YouTube. If you were able to attend the NSWAA conference in Bathurst recently, you would have been lucky to see Dr Cokcetin present an update on her work.
- Chalkbrood in Australia - Jody Gerdt has finished a four-year investigation into chalkbrood in Australia. The project looked at *Ascosphaera apis* diversity, volatiles produced by infected larvae, how colonies responded to controlled infection, and what happened to individual larvae fed spores. Jody has recently presented her findings at QBA, ABA and SAAA conferences and will also be presenting at TBA conference on 28<sup>th</sup> June in Launceston Tasmania. The project will be available online in the coming months so subscribe to [BeeScientifics newsletter](#) to stay updated. Another great project partly supported by our honey levies through [Agrifutures](#).
- Do you know a budding scientist/beekeeper looking to advance their career and hone their knowledge of bees and the beekeeping industry? A Quality of Australian honey from native botanicals - PhD scholarship is available. This PhD project – focussed on honey flavour – will form part of a new ARC funded Training Centre as a collaboration between The University of Queensland and Flow. Applications close 30th June 2019. Applications and more information can be found [here](#).
- '[Shocking' DNA discovery traces most of the world's macadamias back to one Australian tree](#)' Queensland researchers are shocked to discover the global macadamia industry may have originated from nuts from a single tree or small number of trees, taken from Queensland to Hawaii in the 19th century. Given the lack of genetic diversity in the \$3 billion crop, the race is on to preserve wild macadamia trees to improve traits like disease resistance, size and climate adaptability. Southern Cross University's Dr Cathy Nock said the discovery back to Queensland was startling. "It was a bit of a shock to see just how narrow the gene pool was from which the Hawaiian cultivars were developed. They represent about 70 per cent of the trees that are grown in orchards around the world." ABC News by Jennifer Nichols, 30 May 2019.
- QBA recently alerted Queensland members about a national safety alert issued for asbestos present in the insulation component of some imported electric/battery operated bee smokers. It is suggested that all beekeepers purchasing imported bee smokers contact the supplier for documentation confirming that there is no asbestos in the bee smoker. Please see the link for specific information relating to the [Safety Alert](#). Electric/battery-operated bee smokers have been identified as containing asbestos in the insulating board between the battery compartment in the handle of the device and the metal smoker. Two models imported from China with different coloured handles have been found to have asbestos in the insulating board. Authorities are still investigating whether other imported bee smoker models may contain asbestos. Check your equipment as a matter of priority.
- Ideal growing conditions across a hot, dry summer has this year's Australian crop expected to reach 100,000 tonnes for the first time. This has coincided with a 50 per cent tariff on hulled and unshelled Californian almonds in China, which has been in place since last year. The last Chinese tariffs on Australian almonds were also removed this year under a free trade agreement. [Record almond crop good for exports](#), Australian TreeCrop, 10 May 2019

- Over the past five to six years, avocado growers have been increasing their plantings to keep up with Australia's insatiable demand for avocados. The nine per cent increase brings the expected total up to 95,000 tonnes for the year April 2019 to March 2020, from 87,000 tonnes the previous year. [Record expected for Hass avocados](#), Australian TreeCrop, 10 May 2019
- Recently, there have been further reports in the media on the glyphosate issue. CropLife issued the following media release on 2 June 2019. [It's time glyphosate discussion returned to facts based on science](#).
- [Flowers can hear buzzing bees—and it makes their nectar sweeter](#), hearing is not only for ears. Tel Aviv University researcher Lilach Hadany and the team looked at evening primroses (*Oenothera drummondii*) and found that within minutes of sensing vibrations from pollinators' wings, the plants temporarily increased the concentration of sugar in their flowers' nectar. In effect, the flowers themselves served as ears, picking up the specific frequencies of bees' wings while tuning out irrelevant sounds like wind and the results are summarised in National Geographic article by Michelle Z. Donahue, January 15, 2019.
- More from National Geographic, [Amazing Time-Lapse: Bees Hatch Before Your Eyes](#) Witness the eerily beautiful growth of larvae into bees in this mesmerizing time-lapse video from photographer Anand Varma. Varma said the six-month project, for which he built a beehive in his workshop, gave him a new respect for the meticulous job of beekeeping.
- Toby Smith is a bee researcher immersed in the world of Australia's native bees. There are more than two thousand species but only eleven of those make honey. The most-studied species are the sugarbag bees, which many people mistake for flies. They live in colonies where the female workers operate the hive and the queen spends four years breeding. After the queen outlives her usefulness, she's headbutted to death by her workers. The workers install a waiting princess to become the next queen. While studying to become a bee researcher, Toby spent time in the cloud forests of Panama searching for orchid bees. The drones perfume the forest with their bottoms, creating a unique flowery scent to lure in possible mates. More on ABC Conversations with Richard Fidler and Sarah Kanowski, [The brutal and beautiful world of Australia's native bees](#), 9 May 2019
- As part of [Vivid](#) in Sydney, [Beetopia](#) is a giant glowing bee hotel with oversized, colourful native bees crawling all over it. Inspired by the fast-growing trend of bee hotel, this installation is designed to be touch sensitive. Run your hands across the textured façade and, when you pat a bee, it will respond with a gentle buzz. The installation uses capacitive sensors on the bees that trigger a vibration similar to that of a mobile phone. Hurry if you wish to see this, last days, closing 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- Are you also interested in pollinators other than honey bees? The Wild Pollinator Count gives the public an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator insect conservation in Australia. Held recently, the Wild Pollinator Count attracted its best results to date. Read more: [Autumn 2019 results: our biggest count yet!](#) Posted on May 28 by Karen Petra.
- On the West Side of Chicago, honey bees have become a beacon of hope for former prison inmates. A [Chicago business trains former inmates to be beekeepers](#) with wonderful outcomes, Parija Kavilanz Byline By Parija Kavilanz, CNN Business, May 30, 2019

## SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2019

Were you involved in this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show? Congratulations to all those who entered and were recognised in the National Honey Show. Some photos of the display and champion honey's! Photo credit: thank you Cathie Sutherland from 'Deeargee', Uralla in NSW who kindly found time to take the photos for me while seriously challenged for time assisting her son with his award winning Deeargee Speckle Park cattle and her daughter with her award winning Anna Sutherland Textile Designer pavilion stall.





## NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

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](#).

## TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

### **TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

### **74<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

#### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

9.00am	REGISTRATION
9.30am	WELCOME BY PRESIDENT
	APOLOGIES
	REMEMBRANCE PAUSE
	CONFIRMATION OF 2018 CONFERENCE MINUTES
	BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
	PRESIDENTS REPORT
	FINANCIAL REPORT
	OTHER REPORTS
10.00am	MORNING TEA – Sponsored by Hive & Wellness Aust (Capilano)
10.30am	APIARY OFFICERS REPORT - Karla Williams
11.00am	AHBIC ANNUAL REPORT – Mr Peter McDonald
11.30am	SPEAKER - Australian Queen Bee Breeders – Jody Gerdtz
11.45 am	SPEAKER - B-QUAL REPORT – Mr Peter McDonald
12.00	LUNCH
1.00pm	OFFICIAL OPENING – Hon Guy Barnett MP – Minister for Primary Industry
1.15pm	SPEAKER – Doug Sommerville – Honey Bee Nutrition on Supplementary Feeding
1.45pm	SPEAKER – Jay Curtain – Honey Sales
2.00pm	SPEAKER – Jody Gerdtz - Update of Chalkbrood Research
2.30pm	SPEAKER - Dr Peter Holm – The Management of Foul Brood Disease in Honey Bees
3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30pm	ELECTION OF OFFICERS – GENERAL BUSINESS
4.00pm	SPEAKER – Andrew Robinson – Manuka, Markers & Monofloral Honey
4.30pm	SPEAKER – Dr Ben McKee – CEO, Hive & Wellness Aust (Capilano)
6.30pm for 7pm -	ANNUAL DINNER AND HONEY COMPETITION PRESENTATIONS.

(Agenda subject to changes)

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# **TASMANIAN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION**

## **CONFERENCE - 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT VENUE (PLEASE CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECT)

**VENUE – Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston. Phone 0363343434 Quote reference 299187.  
Price \$135 Superior Room**

<b>Registration-</b>		<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Day Package	\$62	.....	.....
Friday -Annual Dinner (3 Courses)	\$70	.....	.....
Saturday –AHBIC AGM	\$75	.....	.....
(Day package includes Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch)			.....

**Total Payment - Payment with Registration please**  
(TBA details - CBA : BSB 067-406 Account Number 00901724)  
**NO CARD FACILITIES AVAILABLE**  
Day packages includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea

Please forward registration form by the 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019  
**Booking essential for catering purposes.**

Please specify if you require a vegetarian meal or have any food allergies . . . . .

Please return to -  
Secretary  
Tasmanian Beekeepers Ass  
Po Box 129  
Wynyard. 7325  
Phone 64423916 Mobile 0408323196  
Email – [secretary@tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au](mailto:secretary@tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au)

Attendees Names . . . . .

Address . . . . .

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email: [bqual@ausqual.com.au](mailto:bqual@ausqual.com.au)



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



PO Box 42  
Macquarie ACT 2614

(AHBIC)  
ABN: 63 939 614 424

Phone: 0402 467 780  
Email: [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

## FRIENDS of AHBIC

*Supporting Australia's National Beekeeping Industry with a voluntary contribution*

"Friend" Category	Investment	"Friend" Category	Investment
PLATINUM PLUS	\$60,000	SILVER	\$ 1,000 & above
PLATINUM	\$20,000 & above	BRONZE	\$ 500 & above
GOLD PLUS	\$ 5,000 & above	COPPER	\$ 100 & above
GOLD	\$ 2,000 & above	OTHER	Up to \$100

### Contribution Details

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....State.....Postcode.....

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

Phone: ..... Date: .....

Contribution by: DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

CHEQUE: \$.....

Please return this form to AHBIC by post or email  
to ensure your contribution is recorded correctly

POST: AHBIC, PO Box 42, Macquarie, ACT 2614  
EMAIL: [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Banking Bank: Bendigo Bank

Details BSB: 633 000



Account No: 150 976 405

Reference: Please include your NAME as the Direct Deposit Reference

Contribution by credit card is now available through the AHBIC website at  
<https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

Please indicate YES or NO

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
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Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.

It is gratefully appreciated.