



## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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**ABN 63 939 614 424**

### AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW

**To: The Australian Honey Industry**  
**From Stephen Ware – Executive Director**  
**Re: November/December 2009 Update**

**AB's Honey**  
**Australian Honey Products**  
**Beechworth Honey**  
**Bees Neez Apiaries**  
**Capilano Honey Limited**  
**Dewar Apiaries**  
**Honey DownUnder**  
**H L & H M Hoskinson**  
**I N & J E Mills**  
**Pollination Association of WA**

**Saxonbee Enterprises**  
**Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd**  
**Stephens, R**  
**Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association**  
**Tasmanian Honey Company**  
**Walkabout Apiaries**  
**T & M Weatherhead**  
**Weerona Apiaries**  
**Wescobee Limited**

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer and queen bee supplier to AHBIC. We also urge beekeepers to support those packers/queen bee breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your honey buyer's or queen bee supplier's name appear on this list?**  
**If not, then ask 'why not?'**

**SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!**

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## **EXPORT MATTERS**

### **Establishment Listing For Exporters of Honey and Bee Products**

To meet importing country requirements, AQIS will now list all honey and bee product exporters on the AQIS Establishment Register (ER).

Exporters of honey and bee products for human consumption and of honey and bee by-products to the European Union (EU) and to Canada will now be included on an ER list.

To be included in the category of exporters to the EU, you must provide documentary evidence that your business is currently compliant with a recognised HACCP based food safety plan

AQIS will transfer the details of everyone that has provided their details to me to the new list.

Honey exporters can send questions on registrations to: [exportestablishmentregistration@aqis.gov.au](mailto:exportestablishmentregistration@aqis.gov.au)

However, please contact me, if you require further explanation of this change and any other information relating to the export of honey and bee products.

*Fay Stenhouse*

Residue Section

Animal Products Market Access Branch

Email: [fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au](mailto:fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au)

### **SUCCESSFUL SALE OF AI BREEDER QUEENS BY AQBBP**

The sale of the young untested AI queens has been successfully carried out for this spring. There are some extra lines available for sale as extras were inseminated at the time of inseminating the queens for the orders we had.

It is expected that the performance of the queens sent out will be excellent and that word of mouth will increase the numbers of queens ordered next time. This programme was started by industry and is there to serve industry.

This programme is there to help the beekeeping industry and having that pool of genetic material lends itself to having evaluations carried out in many areas.

So if you need a breeder queen, please contact me and we will see what we can do for you. The evaluation data is still on the website so when I advise you what lines are available, you can check to see the performance of these lines.

#### **Contact details:**

Secretary, Trevor Weatherhead

Phone: 07 5467 2135

Email: [queenbee50@bigpond.com](mailto:queenbee50@bigpond.com)

## **BEN HOOPER - NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**



*Photo courtesy Nuffield Australia*

### **CONGRATULATIONS BEN**

Ben receives the 2010 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Honeybee Research and Development Program to study new apiculture techniques for hive and disease management.

Ben is self-employed, working in conjunction with his family's beekeeping business, which has 1200 hives managed for both pollination services and production of up to 100,000kg of honey a year.

He plans to visit the world's major honey production centres, in New Zealand, the US, Canada, Argentina and China, researching chilling techniques, which can be used to manage parasites and to improve the capacity of hives to provide commercial pollination

Ben is an Executive Member of the South Australian Apiarists' Association.

Nuffield Australia awards Scholarships each year to farmers in Australia. The objective is to increase practical farming knowledge and management skills and techniques generally. These scholarships give Australian citizens the opportunity to study farming practices in New Zealand, Europe, Asia and the Americas and those countries best suited to the Scholar. They will also promote a closer understanding between farmers in the countries visited.

## **CONGRATULATIONS - 2009 CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP WINNERS**

### **Tiffane Bate, a beekeeper and queen raiser from Western Australia**

Tiffane will travel to New Zealand, USA, France & Germany for 9 weeks to study the breeding of bees that are resistant to the parasitic mite Varroa.

### **Bill Long, a pollinator from South Australia**

Bill will travel to USA, Switzerland, Germany, France & UK for 5 weeks to investigate large scale pollination services which have developed since Varroa Mite incursion.

The Churchill Trust was established in 1965 to honour the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by awarding overseas research Fellowships known as 'Churchill Fellowships'.

Since its inception The Churchill Trust has awarded Churchill Fellowships to over 3,300 Australians who, like Churchill, are innovative, filled with a spirit of determination and possess a strong desire to benefit their community. Churchill Fellowships allow you to design your own research project, travel the world and further your knowledge in your chosen field, before returning to make a real contribution to Australian society.

## **APIS CERANA UPDATE**

*From Trevor Weatherhead*

### **Advice 58 - 14 November 2009**

The normally scheduled phone hook-up was held yesterday, 13 November, with Rodney Ruge and myself participating.

Since the last Advice, there have been two (2) nests of cerana found in area.

IP51 was detected last week in the Green Hill area and destroyed. This was one of the nests that were being searched for by beelining.

IP52 was found at Yarrabah on Monday 9 November and destroyed. This was the other nest that was being looked for by beelining.

There have not been any more foraging cerana found at Mareeba.

Currently there are no foraging bees that have been observed in the area. Let us hope that it stays this way but I would not be surprised if more nests are found. This does not mean that it is not under control. It would mean that we are now in the phase where it will be harder to find the nests but the demonstrated skills of the surveillance teams makes one confident that they can find these, if there are some there. This absence of foraging bees now allows the teams to carry out more surveillance work.

The weather is not very kind at the moment with a lot of rain but true to the tropics, it rains on the coast but not on the Tablelands so the teams can carry out the surveillance work at Mareeba when it is raining in the Cairns area.

### **Advice 59 - 27 November 2009**

The normally scheduled phone hook-up was held today, 27 November, with Rodney Ruge and myself participating.

Since the last Advice, there have been three (3) finds of cerana in the area.

IP53 was a small swarm found on 14 November at Woree, a suburb of Cairns to the south of the main CBD and well within the current RA. It only contained about 200 bees. The swarm was destroyed.

IP54 was a nest found in the roof of a house at Bentley Park, further south of Woree, on 17 November. The nest was not able to be extracted and was destroyed.

IP 55 was a nest found at Edmonton on 26 November. The nest was in a tin shed and was destroyed.

The crews currently have active cerana foraging at Gordonvale and are beelining at present.

All the above are within the current RA and within areas where others nests or swarms have been found and destroyed. To me it shows that we are getting good public co-operation and the field crews are doing an excellent job.

There have not been any more foraging cerana found at Mareeba.

The weather has been a lot kinder this past fortnight with fine days and the rain falling at night, thus allowing good surveillance work during the day.

Next week I have meetings of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) on Monday and the Consultative Committee on Asian Honey Bees (CCAHB) on Thursday. It is hoped at the Thursday meeting that a recommendation on joint funding can be made.

## 2010 STATE AND SECTOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

<b>FCAAA</b>	<b>New South Wales Apiarists' Association</b>	20 - 21 May
	<b>Victorian Apiarists' Association</b>	2 - 3 June
	<b>Tasmanian Beekeepers Association</b>	4 - 5 June
	<b>South Australian Apiarists' Association</b>	10 - 11 June
	<b>WA Farmers Federation- Beekeeping Section</b>	11 - 12 June
	<b>Queensland Beekeepers Association</b>	17 - 18 June

<b>Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association</b>	19 May
<b>Honey Packers and Marketers Association</b>	26 May
<b>National Council of Crop Pollination Associations</b>	17 June (to be confirmed)
<b>Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations</b>	17 June (to be confirmed)
<b>Australian Honey Bee Industry Council</b>	18 - 19 June

## AHBIC 2010 AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will be held in Queensland in conjunction with the Queensland Beekeepers Association Conference.

**VENUE:**       **Country Comfort Motor Inn**  
                  **250 South Station Road**  
                  **Raceview**  
                  **Ipswich QLD 4305**  
                  **Phone: 07 3202 4622**  
                  **Freecall: 1800 882 263**

## AHBIC CONSTITUTION

Following the re-convened AHBIC Annual General Meeting the Constitution has been amended and is now available on the AHBIC website: [www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)

## SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of the AHBIC Executive Committee and office staff, we wish all a happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to a prosperous 2010. The AHBIC office will be closed from 5pm Friday 18 December and will reopen at 9am on Monday 11 January 2010.

## **BEALE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION - Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements**

### **Progress continues on reforms to strengthen Australia's biosecurity**

The Rudd Government continues to make progress on reforming Australia's biosecurity system, following the detailed recommendations of the Beale Review.

Work is set to begin on planning for a comprehensive biosecurity IT upgrade to replace outdated systems, most of which are more than a decade old. The technology is increasingly unreliable and involves 75 different systems which need to be streamlined to reduce the potential impact on trade if systems fail.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has advised that a failure in the current inefficient clearance system would halt quarantine processing of trade within days.

The Government will also examine the current network of quarantine facilities for plants and animals entering Australia, to better plan for future needs.

Leases for the current five sites expire in 2015 and a number can't be renewed, meaning work must begin now to look at alternatives and ensure we maintain a rigorous biosecurity system.

The measures are another step forward in the long process of responding to the findings of the Beale Review, in consultation with other states and industry.

Detailed drafting of new legislation to replace the century-old Quarantine Act is continuing and interim arrangements which took effect on 1 July this year, in-line with the recommendations of the Beale Review, remain in place, including:

- Dr Kevin Dunn appointed as interim Inspector General of Biosecurity;
- the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's biosecurity functions consolidated into a new one-stop-shop, integrating AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and other areas in a Biosecurity Services Group; and
- former ABARE Chief Economist Mr Roger Rose has joined the Eminent Scientists Group which is responsible for reviewing the import risk analyses conducted by Biosecurity Australia.

A Biosecurity Advisory council is expected to be established later this year as the key source of independent biosecurity advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Consistent with the Beale Report, the Government has also moved from the previous system of Increased Quarantine Intervention, with inflexible targets, to a genuine risk management system and has maintained the National Sentinel Hive Program.

On-going work on the planned IT upgrade, the network of quarantine facilities, legislation drafting and maintaining interim arrangements will be supported with \$14.7million from within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry budget.

The Beale Review report made 84 recommendations, which the Government accepted in-principle.

It followed the Callinan Inquiry into the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza. The government is on-track or ahead of schedule on implementing the 38 Callinan Report recommendations.

## **2010 NATIONAL HONEY SHOW**

The Sydney Royal Apiculture Competition has grown - cementing its status as a National Competition and is now **The Sydney Royal National Honey Show**.

There are new commercial classes which honey packers and producer honey packers are eligible for. These include:

- Liquid honey, colour light
- Liquid honey, colour medium
- Creamed honey, fine grained

Gold, Silver & Bronze medals will be awarded in each class where a required standard is reached. A Gold medal from this competition will certainly enhance your honey label.

It is effortless to enter our National Honey Show. An entry form must be completed and forwarded with the entry fee before the closing date of February 3, 2010 and then post, courier or deliver your entries to arrive at the Showground no later than 3.30pm Monday 29 March 2010.

All exhibits will be displayed in cabinets located in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome next to the *Honeyland* stand throughout the Show for the public to view along with an educational display for Apiculture. Approximately 80% of all show goers visit the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome. This equates to a potential 750,000 visitors viewing your exhibits.

The 2010 Sydney Royal Easter Show will be from 1-14 April 2010.

To find out more about the classes or to be added to our database for a 2010 entry form and schedule, please contact Elaine Rogers on 02 9704 1449 in the Agricultural Section. Schedules and entry forms will be available online in December - simply go to: [www.sydneyroyal.com.au](http://www.sydneyroyal.com.au)

## **INTERNATIONAL HONEY UPDATE**

*Courtesy: S Skamberg & Co Ltd - USA  
November 2009*

Raw honey prices are still very firm. A smaller than expected USA crop, coupled with a lack of surplus raw honey in the world market have kept prices strong. Some available raw honey in the world market is being held for better pricing. At the same time, demand has been very strong from the consumer level through the food service and industrial levels. US packers also struggle to compete for honey on the world market with the US weaker dollar versus other world currencies.

USA - The California raw honey crop was very poor, with continued drought in that state. Raw honey from the Southern part of the US, which produces much of the nations Light Amber honey, was also short. Very cool, wet conditions in the Upper Midwest (which produces most of the honey in the US) reduced the crop substantially. The final 2009 crop numbers are not in, but some have projections indicated at 15% below last year's crop of 161 million lbs.

Canada - The weather was also very cool and wet in Canada. Their crop will be comparable to the US in diminished production. Canadian honey prices usually parallel US prices and are actually higher so far this year.

South America - Projections for the Argentina raw honey crop are dismal as drought continues to be a factor. Brazil, which produces almost year round, should be in better shape, but as Europe competes more and more for that honey, those prices remain strong.

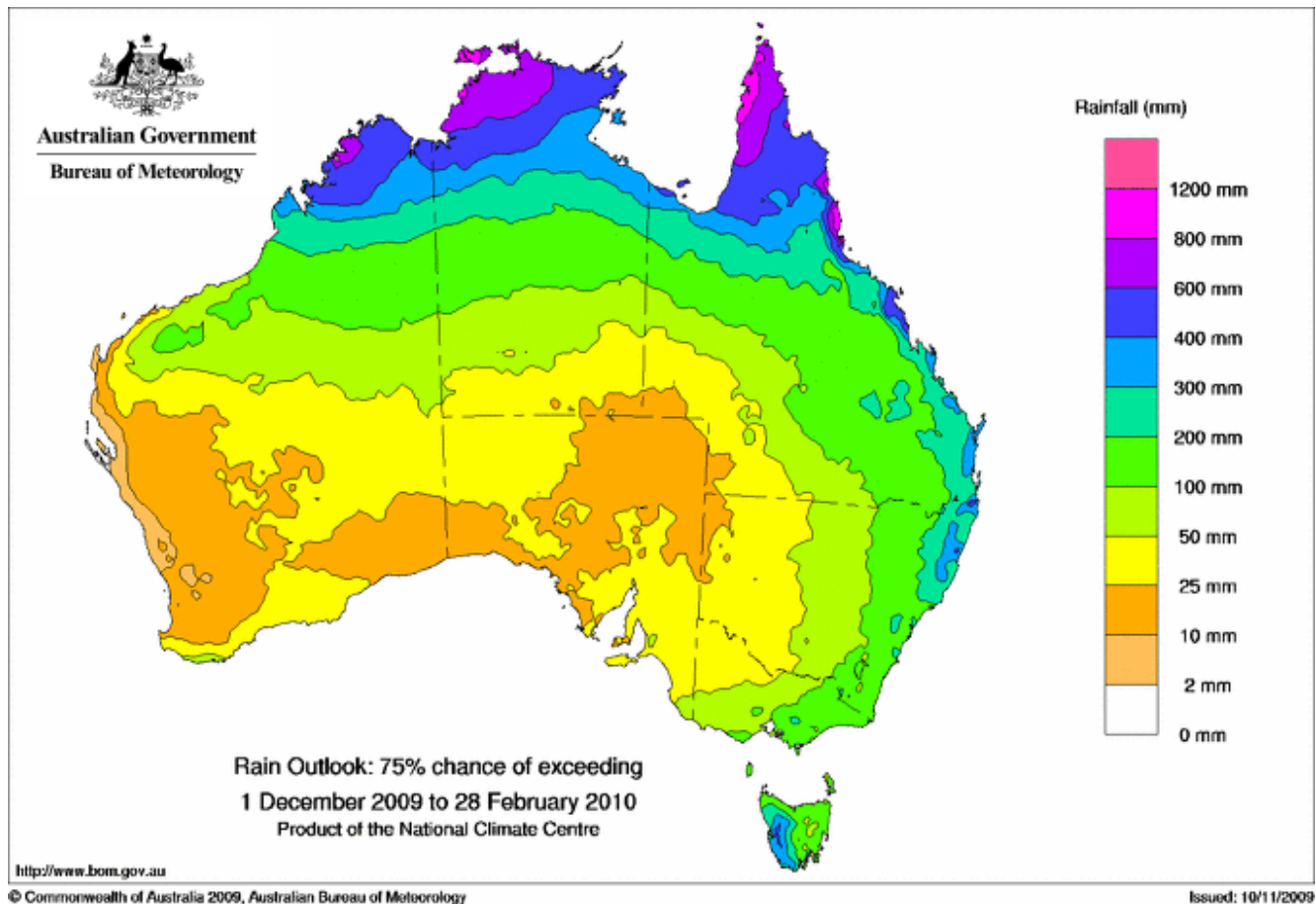
India - India's crop is just starting to come in, and offerings from there are few. Demand for this honey will be high. Conditions are favorable for a good crop, but competition will be heavy and prices will be strong.

Viet Nam - Usually a good source for favorably priced legitimate light amber honey, Viet Nam had a very poor 2009 crop. That crop is virtually sold, and the new crop will come in early 2010.

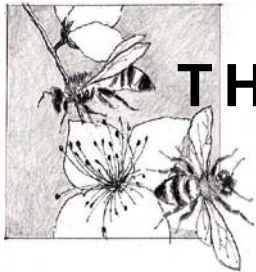
As far as China, it is always hard to gauge China's honey crop, but it should be better than last year's poor crop. Much of last year's honey crop was sold through 3rd countries or sold as honey syrup to avoid duties. Circumvention of Chinese honey appears to be rampant. Virtually no Chinese honey is being imported into the US, but large volumes of honey are being imported from countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Ukraine and Mongolia? These countries are offering honey at more favorable prices, but again this is very suspect honey for contamination and adulteration.

## RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING SEASON

*Courtesy: Australian Bureau of Meteorology*







# THE WHEEN FOUNDATION

healthy bees feed the world

PO BOX 223 RICHMOND NSW 2753 AUSTRALIA  
170 Old Kurrajong Road RICHMOND

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## **Seminar: Honeybee Genetics and Breeding and Launch of the Wheen Foundation**

**Venue:** University of Western Sydney, UHAC Hawkesbury Theatre Bldg G1

**Date:** Saturday 12 December, 9.00AM - 5.00PM

### **Programme:**

**9.00 Welcome:** Dr Doug Somerville (NSW DPI)

9.10 - 9.40 Professor Ben Oldroyd (University Sydney): *Difficulties in Breeding Honeybees.*

9.40 - 10.05 Dr Alexandre Christino (Queensland Brain Institute, University QLD): *Genomics and Environmental Response in the Honeybee.*

10.05 - 10.30 Dr Peter Oxley (University Sydney): *Identification of Genes Related to Hygienic Behaviour in Honeybees.*

10.30 - 11.00 Morning Tea

11.00 - 11.35 Dr Sue Cobey (Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honeybee Biology Research Facility at University of California, Davis): *Breeding Varroa Resistance in Honeybees.*

11.35 - 12.00 Dr Michael Hornitzky (Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute. NSW DPI): *The Role of Quarantine Facilities in Honeybee Breeding Programmes.*

12.00 - 12.15 Dr Max Whitten: *The Role of the Wheen Foundation*

12.15 - 12.30 Mr Alby Schultz MP: *Official Launch of the Wheen Foundation.*

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch

1.30 - 2.10 Dr Sue Cobey: *Bee Breeding Programmes around the World.*

2.10 - 2.35 Dr Andrew Barron (Macquarie University): *Honeybee Population Dynamics. Why do colonies collapse?*

2.35 - 3.00 Des Cannon (RIRDC Honeybee R&D Advisory Committee): *Honeybee Genetics and Stock Improvement Programme.*

3.00 - 3.30 Linton Briggs (commercial beekeeper and queen breeder): *Past and present bee breeding schemes in Australia*

3.30 - 4.00 General Discussion

4.00 - 5.00 Afternoon tea and visit to Wheen Foundation

**PLEASE NOTE IT IS NECESSARY TO REGISTER FOR THIS SEMINAR**

**If you wish to attend please contact:**  
**Julie Lockhart, Secretary of New South Wales Apiarists' Association**  
**Ph: 02 9631 3934 - email [nswaa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nswaa@bigpond.net.au)**  
**or Doug Somerville email: [doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au)**

**A \$30 fee will be payable on the day**

**WHEN FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA**

The When Foundation has been created as a result of a generous bequest from well-known honeybee identities, Gretchen and the late Frank When. Its broad purpose is to support research, development and training which will benefit beekeepers and pollination dependent industries.

The When Foundation is a not-for-profit Public Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Foundation will be officially launched on Saturday 12 December 2009 by Mr Alby Schultz MP during a seminar at University of Western Sydney on bee genetics and stock improvement.

The When Foundation will be located at the Richmond property of Gretchen When. This comprises the beautiful 17 acre farm fronting the Nepean River and is well known for its suitability for queen raising. Currently, there is a well-equipped AI laboratory and other facilities. In time, there will be small conference facilities and some limited accommodation to support the activities of the Foundation.

The Founding Directors and Members of the Foundation are: Max Whitten, Linton Briggs, Gretchen When and Colin Powell. Additional Directors and members will be sought in time to provide continuity and maintain relevance.

The objects of the Foundation are purposely wide ranging. In brief, they are:

- 1. To advance scientific knowledge and research into bee keeping in Australia, including but not limited to the systematic breeding and researching into honey bees to genetically improve strains of honey bees for the benefit of the Australian Apicultural Industry and in the national interest of Australia generally.*
- 2. To provide means for research and development of the bee keeping industry in Australia, including research into disease, parasites, other pests, predators and nuisances; and to promote entomological study and, by collaboration with other entities, to increase knowledge and develop remedies to prevent, eradicate or minimise endemic and/or exotic threats to the health and existence of honey bees.*

3. *To collaborate with other entities to foster investigation into the capacity for Australian Native Social Bees and European Honey Bees to effectively improve production of plants through pollination.*
4. *To facilitate improved methods of bee-keeping and promote better standards and practices.*
5. *To develop, advocate and promote alternative or new methods, practices and procedures to better regulate and protect beekeeping.*
6. *To promote the marketing and advertising of products and by-products of beekeeping in Australia and elsewhere.*
7. *To provide means for the education, advancement, accommodation, training and support for bee-keepers and other persons, including researchers, teachers or operators in or associated with beekeeping.*
8. *To generally promote the betterment of bee-keeping in Australia.*

An AI course for beginners will be conducted at UWS in the week preceding the seminar, to be followed by an Advanced AI course during the week after the launch.

Before Mr Schultz launches the Foundation, Max Whitten will outline some possible roles for the Foundation. The emphasis is on working with the industry to define the most effective way that the Foundation can operate to promote profitability and sustainability of beekeepers and those primary industries dependent on honeybee pollination.

Possible roles or issues to pursue include:

- A centre to assist bee breeding and stock improvement
- A laboratory for AI workers from industry and research organisations
- A centre for specific courses, especially on AI, disease identification etc
- A centre for special meetings, workshops
- A lobby for shaping Government policy relating to the bee industry
- A hub for Pollination Australia
- A diagnostic laboratory
- A facility for research groups to maintain hives, experimental stock (eg Macquarie University)
- Other farm uses compatible with honeybee colonies but capable of generating income for meeting general overheads and funding for Foundations activities.

# CROP & STOCK REPORTS

## **New South Wales**

Seasonal conditions have deteriorated over most of the State during spring with above average temperatures and little rain. Most inland and southern areas have seen flowerings brought to an early finish (Canola & Patterson's Curse) with very few eucalypts budded.

Some coastal areas (north and far north coast) have had rain and trees are carrying bud or are flowering (White Mahogany, Grey Iron Bark, Spotted Gum & Brush Box) and giving reasonable nectar.

Red Stringybark in the south was budded but yield will depend on weather conditions over the next two months.

Very few beekeepers would have honey stocks in their yards and prospects from Christmas through autumn to winter do not look promising.

Prices have firmed over the past few weeks to \$3.60 - \$3.85, however some packers are trying to resist any increases and would like to lower prices. These packers may not get supply if they drop prices.

*Bill Weiss*

## **Queensland**

Honey prospects in Queensland have reached a crucial period due to lack of general rain. From an excellent start to the season the ongoing dry conditions have resulted in most beekeepers having difficulty finding build flows for colonies and what pollen that is available is coming from water stressed flora. More than a few beekeepers are suggesting the protein levels are down and colonies are not maintaining their strength. Some have reported high levels of "deadouts".

Current honey production is centred on Grey Ironbark and Yellow Stringybark, both sources are drought stressed and yielding at less than half their normal rate, i.e. a fill in six weeks. Areas that have received rain closer in to Brisbane are at normal production but slowing. Bloodwood is well budded but there is now a fear that it will drop its bud. Brush Box has "tipped" but will be late flowering, probably closer to January. Messmate will attract interest in the late summer.

Right now all eyes are on the weather maps!

Due to conditions there is not a lot of honey in honey producer's hands.

*Bill Winner*

## **South Australia**

Generally, conditions have been good up till now. The weather has let us down with the coldest October on record (almost) and now the hottest and longest heatwave recorded in November. Too cold for the Jane to yield much honey and now the heat may have cooked it, just when the bees were beginning to really perform. Time will tell just how much the heat will affect conditions from now on.

The Riverland has been very dry, forage is short and the citrus season was marred by cool temperatures. There is a little Salvation Jane which is still providing enough nectar to keep hives ticking over. Some Red Gum has started flowering (early), but not a heavy budding. River Box has yet to flower.

Barossa and Northern areas have a little bit of Blue Gum flowering but most of it is still growing. Some Jane will survive to be of benefit (hopefully). There is some Blue Gum flowering in the South East, growing heavily.

Rain is needed in all areas to set bud on those trees that have survived and are 'tipping up'. Rain is also needed for dryland lucerne to yield.

At this stage we are relying heavily on good rains to provide future prospects.

*Wendy Thiele*

### **Tasmania**

Tasmanian Beekeepers are experiencing the best spring for some time.

After the recent heavy rainfalls the weather has warmed up and the bees are progressing well. We have not seen such a great flowering of Hawthorns for a great many years. In some early areas of the State the hives are getting honey whilst the late areas, although the hives are progressing, still require some feeding.

With Christmas only 5 weeks away everyone is very busy, some are still pollinating whilst preparation for what looks like a very good Ground Flora honey season is in full swing with new queens being bred and introduced.

The Australian dollar is not helping overseas sales so there is still quite a bit of honey left.

The Leatherwoods have also had good rains and would appear to be on time.

*Ian Stephens*

### **Victoria**

October and November weather has resulted in warmer weather finishing up with extreme heatwave conditions mid November. This heatwave was broken by extensive heavy rains throughout Victoria and NSW Riverina during the weekend of 21-22 Nov.

The heatwave finished any late Paterson's Curse still flowering in the NSW Riverina and Northern Victoria and Canola in high rainfall South West Victoria. Yellow Gum which had only been yielding lightly during October yielded heavily in the November heat.

In Gippsland, Red Box has yielded the heaviest crop of honey for many years.

**Future** - River Red Gum has started to flower and beekeepers are in the process of moving bees. The best budding is on the Anabranche River from the Murray and Murrumbidgee River in NSW. With the present rains on the black soil flood plains, this shifting will be slowed down for a few days.

There is also movement of bees onto the pockets of Red Gum in South West Victoria, although some new growth is showing through Western Victoria.

September rains created extensive new growth on many eucalypt species, and the hot November weather has resulted in these trees setting buds. Both summer and winter flowering Ironbark and Grey Box are in the process of setting a heavy crop of buds.

There appears now that we have a reasonable chance of producing an autumn crop of honey. Red Stringybark budded to flower from mid January has dropped some bud.

All beekeepers have produced some spring honey. Canola, Paterson's Curse, Yellow Gum and Red Box have all yielded honey.

There should be some Red Gum and maybe a little Yellow Box over the summer.

*Bob McDonald*

### **Western Australia**

Spring has been quite different with some beekeepers extracting no honey and others having a good harvest.

Coastal sites produced quite well in most areas, Curse was almost a non-event while Brown Mallee and York Gum have produced well.

The South Western parts of the goldfields are starting to produce and should continue until about Christmas. The expected Jarrah crop is almost a total failure but the Blackbutt and Powderbark are budding up well.

*Rod Pavy*