

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424

Monthly NEWS



November 2018

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry

www.honeybee.org.au

From: Trevor Weatherhead AM – Executive Director

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L. to R. Ben McKee, David Stevens, Peter Barnes, Trevor Weatherhead,
Minister David Littleproud, Jacob Stevens

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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 December 2017

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

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PLATINUM

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Wheen Bee Foundation

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Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd
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McDonald, Peter & Michelle
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene
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Southern (Tas) Beekeepers Assoc
Zadow-IM & MJ Zadow Trust

BRONZE

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Kennett Apiaries (SA) Pty Ltd
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Pure Peninsula Honey

COPPER

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Bricknell, Jack
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Clifford, David
Cooper, Barry
Curless, David
Dewar, Paula
Frost, Liz
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society Ltd
Gustare Honey Australia
Hampson, Terry
(Daybreak Apiaries)
Hum Honey (Leisa Sams)
Ipswich & West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Jordan, Corrine
McDonald, Robert
Northside Beekeepers Assoc
Oldroyd, Ben & Madeleine
Beekman

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

OTHER

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

NON-PUBLISHED Value
Faithful, Mark

HONEY PRODUCERS

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Active Medicinal Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Blair, Shona
Bliss, Stephen
Costa, Daniel (Costa Honey)
Davey, Robin
Harvey, Andrew
Hooper, Ben (Hooper Honey)

Hoskinson, HL & HM
Jones, Daniel
Klinger, Craig
MacGibbon, Kevin
McGlew, Gary
Naicol Pty Ltd
Ruge Honey
Shaw, Robert
Targett, Stephen
Walkabout Apiaries

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Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat
Bee Happy Apiaries
Heritage Honey
Honey I'm Home
R.Stephens

BEEKEEPING GROUPS

Ballarat Regional Beekeepers Inc

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Ecrotek
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies
Schutz Australia Pty

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THE LATEST ON ADULTERATED HONEY

In the last week of November, there was a meeting held in Melbourne including industry, Government, analytical companies and scientists. It was looking at the testing of honey and is there a reliable, enforceable test and, if not, how could one be developed.

In the recommendations a metadata analysis of all the chemical and pollen analyses undertaken on Australian honey also looking at any possible anomalies is to be investigated. Looking at the NMR testing and alternative methodologies is also to be examined. Also looking at producing an internationally recognised compendium of Australian honey is to be explored.

AHBIC and Government will be consulting on the various recommendations with a view to progressing them.

MINISTERIAL VISIT

On 3 November, 2018 a meeting was held at the beekeeping premises of David, Rosie and Jacob Stevens just outside Warwick with Minister Littleproud. Also attending were Peter Barnes, AHBIC Executive member, Ben McKee, Chair of the AHBIC Subcommittee on Food Safety and Prevention of Residues and Trevor Weatherhead. Thanks to David, Rosie and Jacob for making their premises available.

The Stevens showed us over their beekeeping enterprise. We then gave the Minister an outline of our industry and discussed with him about various beekeeping issues. Some of the issues raised were China exports, beeswax importation, honey testing and Regional Forest Agreements (RFA's).

Re the RFAs, the Minister told us to contact his advisor on this. We did and a meeting was held on 27 November in Canberra which is the subject of a separate item in this newsletter.

Overall we spent around an hour with the Minister and he was very receptive to our representations.

PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON RFAs

On 27 November, 2018 a meeting, to discuss the history and current status of Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) in Australia, was held with one of Minister Littleproud's advisors at Parliament House in Canberra. This was as a result of meeting with Minister Littleproud earlier in the month. Present were Ian Cane, Chair of the AHBIC Resources Subcommittee, Neil Bingley, President of the New South Wales Apiarists Association, Sarah Paradise, the incoming AHBIC CEO and Trevor Weatherhead.

Ian Cane had prepared a short paper on the current situation of the RFAs in Australia for the advisor.

We outlined the history of the RFAs in Australia and how they did not do the beekeepers any favours. In fact, in some cases, they are detrimental to beekeepers.

We discussed the current situation in the bush and, in particular, the current review of the RFAs being conducted in several States. The level of consultation in some of these reviews is not satisfactory. The advisor asked for some more information, which will be supplied. I feel it was a productive meeting and the advisor had a good understanding of our problems and will look to have input into the current and upcoming reviews.

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT THE SURVEY?

Back on 6 November, 2018 I sent out a separate screed re the survey that is being carried out on how healthy Australian bees are and what pests and diseases might be causing problems for beekeepers. This will give us some up to date data.

If you have not completed it go to <http://bit.ly/BeeHealthSurvey> and fill it out. It will only take 10-12 minutes.

The survey was originally to close on 14 December, 2018 but that has been extended to 31 December, 2018.

ALMOND INDUSTRY

According to the 2017-18 annual report from Almonds Australia they say, in regard to pollination, “It is estimated that the demand will grow from around 190,000 hives to 300,000 hives during the next decade. Given the estimated total number of commercial hives in Australia stands at 380,000, the need to build the number of hives available to service our pollination needs is obvious.”

I believe they are underestimating the number of commercial hives but it is still an over 50% increase in the number of hives needed. I have been told by beekeepers in Queensland that when the price is right they will be available to supply hives for pollination.

The report also stated that production for the period was down due to “poor pollination conditions, widespread severe frosts and pest damage”.

The total area under almonds stood at almost 40,000 hectares. New plantings will likely increase the area to 50,000 hectares in the next few years.

AGM DATES

Annual conferences for 2019, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

New South Wales Apiarists Association	16 & 17 May - Bathurst
WA Farmers – Beekeeping section	24-25 May - Perth
Queensland Beekeepers Association	30 May - 1 June – Bribie Island
Victorian Apiarists Association	4,5 & 6 June - Mildura
South Australian Apiarists Association	13-14 June - Adelaide
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	28 June - Launceston
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	29 June - Launceston

Due to AHBIC having to have their changes to the Constitution lodged with the Western Australia Department of Commerce by 30 June, 2019 the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association conference and AHBIC AGM have been brought forward a week from the original dates.

EXTENSION OF THE KIA FOR ASIAN BEES

Not surprisingly the Known Infested Area (KIA) of the Asian bee in north Queensland is slowly expanding. The most recent report was in the Mt. Carbine area. The southern spread is almost to Tully.

Examination of any Asian bees, so far, still shows that there are no *Varroa jacobsoni* on them in this KIA.

VEGAN HONEY

Still no word from the New South Wales Food Council on what action, if any, they will taken.

In the meantime I am still receiving reports of this product still being sold in stores.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.:	116650
Product name:	Farmalinx Pirate Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	225 g/L methomyl
Applicant name:	Farmalinx Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	134 353 245
Summary of variation:	To add use on lettuce, and extend use to control additional pests in chickpea, cowpea and pigeon pea
Date of variation:	26 October 2018
Product registration no.:	83625
Label approval no.:	83625/116650
Application no.:	113454
Product name:	Agritrading Fipronil 800 WG Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	800 g/kg fipronil
Applicant name:	Agritrading Pty Limited
Applicant ACN:	134 291 295
Summary of use:	For the control of various insect pests in bananas, brassicas, cotton, wine grapes, mushrooms, pasture, potatoes, sorghum and sugar cane
Date of registration:	30 October 2018
Product registration no.:	85504
Label approval no.:	85504/113454
Application no.:	113626
Product name:	Kenso Agcare Kenzar FS Flowable Seed Dressing Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	210 g/L thiamethoxam, 37.5 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin
Applicant name:	Kenso Corporation (M) SDN BHD
Applicant ACN:	N/A
Summary of use:	For treatment of canola and cereal seed for early plant protection against aphids, red legged earth mite and lucerne flea
Date of registration:	30 October 2018
Product registration no.:	85564
Label approval no.:	85564/113626
Application no.:	117254
Product name:	Maya Alfa 100 EC Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	100 g/L alpha-cypermethrin
Applicant name:	Mahamaya Lifesciences Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	626 161 993
Summary of use:	For the control of insect pests including heliothis (<i>Helicoverpa spp.</i>) on various crops, red legged earth mite and blue oat mite on certain field crops and pastures, and certain pests on fruit and vegetable crops
Date of registration:	1 November 2018
Product registration no.:	86995
Label approval no.:	86995/117254

Application no.:	117636
Product name:	Globachem's Imida 200 Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	200 g/L imidacloprid
Applicant name:	Globachem n v
Applicant ACN:	NA
Summary of use:	For the control of various insect pests of certain vegetables and turf
Date of registration:	8 November 2018
Product registration no.:	87144
Label approval no.:	87144/117636

STATISTICS FOR AUSTRALIA

I have prepared another set of statistics on the number of beekeepers and hives in Australia as at 31 October, 2018.

In recent media reporting they have been using data that is about three (3) years out of date. When challenged about using old data it was said that they were not interested. The reality is that the current figures did not suit the story they were telling. Why let the facts get in the way of the story.

	No of beekeepers with <i>less than 50 hives</i>	No of hives owned by beekeepers with <i>less than 50 hives</i>	No of beekeepers with <i>50 or more hives</i>	No of hives owned by beekeepers with <i>50 or more hives</i>
Queensland	4,702	24,434	320	84,806
Victoria	7,404	32,763	233	83,342
Tasmania	216	1,572	46	19,388
South Australia	1,660	9,457	188	64,498
Western Australia	2,525	13,729	167	31,374
Northern Territory	90	345	4	1,140
Australian Capital Territory	442*	1181	NA	NA
TOTAL	16,597	83,481	958	284,548

New South Wales**

Commercial	823 beekeepers	247,238 hives
Recreational	4,884 beekeepers	37,306 hives
Concessional	1,791 beekeepers	19,643 hives
NSW total	7,498 beekeepers	304,187 hives

Total no. of beekeepers	25,053
Total no. of hives	672,216

Current as at 31.10.18

* ACT is not able to differentiate between those with less than 50 hives and those with more than 50

** New South Wales is not able to separate out those with 50 or more hives

Total no. of beekeepers 31.08.17	20,801
Total no. of hives 31.08.17	647,090

SMALL HIVE BEETLE EXTERNAL TRAPS

Dr. Diana Leemon carried out a project for AgriFutures Australia on developing an external trap for small hive beetle. The report can be found at <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/product/external-attractant-trap-for-small-hive-beetle/>

There is a YouTube on a trap which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHUmK5SlzXU> A very simple way of reducing the number of small hive beetles in the area.

IT WAS NOT THE LARGE AFRICAN HIVE BEETLE

Beekeepers may have heard a report of a large beetle being found in hives in the Biggenden, Queensland, area.

The Queensland Department for Agriculture and Fisheries collected samples and they were not the large African hive beetle but a native scarab beetle of the genus *Bisallardiana*. Further work is being carried out to determine the species. So no problems in this case.

BBO'S CAN HELP WITH ADVERSE REPORTING

I have written in several occasions about beekeepers filling out adverse reports and submitting to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) if they have an adverse experience in relation to chemicals.

In a recent newsletter AHBIC has made the offer to help you in this regard.

Recently APVMA held a teleconference with the Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) and gave them a briefing on the adverse reporting method. So if you have experienced problems with chemicals affecting your bees you can now enlist the help of the BBOs in helping fill out the form.

HONEY BEE AND POLLINATION PROGRAM

AgriFutures Australia will not be running an open call for the Honey Bee & Pollination program in 2018, due to existing RD&E budget commitments and levy income uncertainty associated with the drought.

We thank you for your ongoing interest in and support for our rural industries, and for the important RD&E expertise you provide for the Honey Bee & Pollination program.

Program management arrangements will change in November 2018. Melanie Bradley will be taking 12 months maternity leave from 19 November, and Annelies McGaw will commence as Program Manager for our Honey Bee & Pollination, Pasture Seeds and Thoroughbred Horses programs from 26 November. Annie Stoddart has been appointed as a new Program Officer for Honey Bee & Pollination, Pasture Seeds and Thoroughbred Horses.

It is recommended that you subscribe to AgriFutures Australia's corporate and industry newsletters for future RD&E updates: <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/> (sign up button is on the bottom right of the website home page).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)



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Email: 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: **CHEQUE:** \$ or **DIRECT DEPOSIT:** \$

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

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Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405

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Please indicate YES or NO

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Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.

It is gratefully appreciated