



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW

To: The Australian Honey Industry
From Stephen Ware – Executive Director
Re: October 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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AUSTRALIAN PLAGUE LOCUST COMMISSION

Locust Management Advice - 6 October 2009

Situation: Southern Riverina (NSW)

The Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) expects to commence aerial operations within 7 days to conduct training and research activities in addition to controlling any areas of the population that could produce sufficient adult swarms to threaten agriculture in more than one state. In addition, ground control operations by landholders and other agencies are likely to be implemented during a similar period.

Significant nymphal 'band' infestations of the Australian plague locust (*Chortoicetes terminifera*) have developed in parts of the New South Wales (NSW) Central West Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA). These have resulted from eggs laid in autumn 2009. The main area of interest is approximately bounded by: Pilliga – Baradine – Tooraweenah – Gilgandra – Warren – Quambone – Carinda – Come-By-Chance. The population appears spread over a range of developmental stages with the main areas of locust activity, identified to date, concentrated south east of Coonamble towards Tooraweenah, east towards Baradine and south towards Collie. A smaller, related infestation has also been confirmed in the Quambone district. In cooperation with affected parties and counterpart agencies, APLC is continually monitoring and evaluating the situation through ground and aerial surveillance to assist coordination of management efforts at all levels of responsibility.

At present, and pending ongoing evaluation, infestations in the region are considered to pose a low to moderate immediate threat to interstate agriculture. Reports and ground control by landholders and local authorities are playing a very valuable role in the management of the locust infestations.

It is likely that a substantial proportion of the population will comprise small, lower density infestations not suitable for aerial control by APLC. Populations that do not form targets suitable for aerial control may cause localised damage and concern - warranting pre-emptive control by affected landholders.

More closely settled districts and a higher incidence of sensitive areas restricts access for aerial application – emphasising the need for ongoing commitment to ground control by affected landholders and local authorities.

IF NOT CONTROLLED, THE RESULTING ADULTS CAN NOT ONLY POSE A MIGRATION THREAT TO ADJACENT AREAS AND SUSCEPTIBLE STATES FROM LATE OCTOBER ONWARDS – BUT CONTINUE TO THREATEN LOCAL AGRICULTURE FROM SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS THAT MAY RESULT FROM FURTHER BREEDING IN THE CURRENTLY AFFECTED REGION.

A localised infestation of Australian plague locust nymphs has also been identified in Western LHPA but is not expected to require APLC intervention. Monitoring and surveillance of APLC area of operations will continue as appropriate. Locust activity should be reported, in the first instance, to the nearest Livestock Health and Pest Authority [LHPA] (formerly - Rural Lands Protection Board [RLPB]), the Industry & Investment NSW [I&I NSW] and/or to the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC Free call: 1800-635 962).

Situation: Elsewhere

No significant locust activity is currently expected in other parts of the APLC's area of operations.

ASIAN HONEY BEE AND EUROPEAN HONEY BEE REPORT

Warren A Jones - 9 October 2009

My background: 1959 – 1967 Tropical plantation agriculture (cocoa, coconut, oilpalm) PNG New Britain, Madang, Kar Kar Island. Worked for a company that compared Asian Honey Bee (AHB) with the European Honey Bee (EHB) as possible pollinators for the above crops. Information sourced for AHB was through Dutch author D.H.Urquhart, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Deventer, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Memory recall – AHB at the time 1959/60 was being used as pollinators in coconut plantations; the coconut plantations were also planted with rubber trees. Location of plantations – Malaya. Comments from D.H. Urquhart: hives small – regular swarming and absconding – most hives had no bees or little population, also very aggressive towards plantation labour.

The company decided to import four-frame nucleus colonies of European Honeybees from NSW Australia. Poor management and cane toads destroyed the trials before worthwhile results were obtained. Sir Edward Hallstrom (Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney) also imported EHBs early 1950 to his property south of Goroka.

I spent 34 years prior to 1996 -with DPI NSW as Advisory Officer with a regulatory role servicing beekeeping, crop pollination and pesticides affecting beekeeping and crop pollination. Specialised in crop pollination, was involved in the Leafcutter Bee importation for lucerne seed production. This programme has not really been able to generate enough bees to be commercially viable at this stage. The Leafcutter Bee, if it had been successfully introduced - could pollinate a range of crops but introduction has not been successful to date.

1995 – Present: Now a beekeeper-pollinator who has researched his crops, pesticides and diseases. We use 1600 hives of bees (European Honey Bees) to pollinate vegetable seed crops (cauliflower/onions), canola seed, kiwi fruit, seedless water melon, rock melon, sunflower seed, and lucerne seed. I have been representative on Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) for National Crop Pollination Association (NCPA); also member and past president of Crop Pollination Association (CPA) www.aussiepollination.com.au.

1. AHB eradication is still possible at Cairns despite 2 ½ years having passed since the incursion was discovered. All involved at Cairns need to be congratulated for their achievements and outcomes to date. Programme revenue is necessary to ensure that the objectives are met and funding sorted out. Bearing in mind how long this is all taking, things have to be speeded up or the window of opportunity will be lost; keep in mind the cane toad, also the current situation and escalation.
2. Beekeepers have only ever asked for compensation for destruction of beehives or equipment. Compensation for loss of income from pollination services has not been raised by beekeepers. Loss of income in the current climate is being experienced by beekeepers and growers alike due to the failure of large companies, but more serious is the position faced over NIL water allocation across our food production areas in most states.
3. AHB would already be in use worldwide as managed pollinators if this bee had met the required selection criteria for this to occur. In the countries of origin it is classed as an incidental pollinator and a lot of pollination is carried out by manual labour, not insects. The exotic food chain that supports Australia and Europe, Canada, U.S and many other countries is using the European

Honey Bees to pollinate many of the crops used. (European Honey Bee is the pollinator from country of origin of most of our food chain) The EHB has also shown that it can be managed to pollinate most crops in the absence of that crop's main pollinator. We have not mentioned the birds and bats that do play a role as well.

4. Other insect pollinators in Australia are flies, moths, plus some 1400 named different species of native bees. These insects only account for 10 – 15% of insect visitors to flowering crops, whereas European Honey Bees account for up to 80 – 90% of visitors to flowering crops. Current research at University of Western Sydney, Richmond and research in South Australia are looking at *Trigona*, also Blue Banded Australian native bees. It is early days in this research due to management problems to increase their numbers to be commercially used as pollinators. Our intensive vegetable seed production does include fly programmes in cauliflower and onion seed production where only individual head treatment is required. Otherwise our EHBs are used, using different hive population sizes with various hive stocking rates. I have been involved in Leafcutter bee programmes over 20 years. Recently I took delivery of one *Trigona* hive and one Australian native bee hive. I don't know what this will lead to!
5. AHB survival in rainforest is possible along the fringes and close to villages avoiding dense forested areas. The range of colours of flowering plants in AHB countries of origin is different from that of Europe, U.S A and Australia, to which the European Honeybee has adapted very well.
6. AHB can adapt to temperature variation but depends on which race of AHB arrives. The European Honey Bee is also very adaptable to cold, hot, arid or tropical. The European Honeybee maintains hive cluster temperature at human blood temperature (98.6F or 37C) all year round, summer or winter. In Europe, Canada and parts of the USA, EHB hives overwinter at temperatures well below freezing by maintaining their cluster temperature at 98.6F or 37C until warmer temperatures return.

Asian Honey Bee

At this point in time is a major threat to Australian food security, particularly as a vector of many of the diseases/mites that affect our major pollinator, the European Honey Bee. One can only suggest that the effect would also be seen in our native bee population – some 1400 different species, two of which I indicated as being researched and assessed for use as pollinators. Amongst the 1400 Australian native bees there are also Leafcutters (megachile species) and other alkali types that could be researched to increase the pool of available pollinators.

European Honeybee

Managed pollination at present is using about 300,000 hives from a possible 460,000 - 500,000 hive Australia wide pool. There has been a need to ask the Australian Beekeepers to maintain a pool of 500,000 EHB for pollination use. The fruit and nut, vegetable seed, pasture seed, canola, sunflower etc. etc. The total pool available is around 500,000 hives to cover both pollination and honey production. The beekeeping industry in Australia, through migratory efforts is able to move their hives to cover the current pollination demand or take advantage of honey crops. There are problems in WA and NT due to isolation and administration. SA, VIC, NSW and QLD seem to be able to cover most demands for pollination in the eastern states but there will be a need into the future to address the supply problems in WA and NT as the agricultural production base moves to those states which have suitable water, temperature and land availability. Australia is producing more of the world's seed requirements, especially vegetable seed, pasture seed and oil seed crops. A relaxation of our control on AHB would immediately cause loss of our live bee exports (packages and queen bees), so essential to our overseas customers' pollination programmes using EHB pollination programmes. These countries have the Asian Honeybee on their banned list.

WHEEN 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 during a seminar at University of Western Sydney on bee genetics and stock improvement. An AI course for beginners will be conducted at UWS on the three days preceding the seminar, to be followed by an Advanced AI course from 14 - 16 December at the When Foundation.

The When Foundation will be located at the Richmond property of Gretchen When. This comprises a beautiful 18 acre (7.2 ha) farm, fronting the Nepean River. It 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.

If you would like to learn more about the When Foundation, or are interested in helping the Foundation achieve its objectives, please contact one of the Directors. Three Directors, Max, Linton and Gretchen are well known in the industry. Colin Powell has served as Gretchen's accountant for many years.

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 beekeepers and other persons, including researchers, teachers or operators in or associated with beekeeping.*
- 8. To generally promote the betterment of bee-keeping in Australia.*

GRETCHEN WAS AWARDED THE GOODACRE AWARD IN 2005

FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE CITATION WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE AWARD AT THE NSWAA STATE CONFERENCE IN ORANGE

Gretchen has made an outstanding contribution to the Australian Beekeeping Industry in a very unassuming way, through her support and involvement in bee breeding. Her involvement in the Australian beekeeping industry stretches back well beyond 30 years.

Gretchen's mother, Aldwyth, first stimulated Gretchen's long interest in honey bees, managing an apiary in Buckinghamshire, north of London. In 1940 Gretchen found herself in a shipload of children bound for Australia away from the war in Europe. The next convoy was attacked by German submarines, with tragic results for another shipload of children. In Sydney she lived with relatives and completed her primary education. After the war she returned to England but soon decided she would return to Australia, where she completed her tertiary education and settled into life down under.

Gretchen completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Sydney. During her university days, on the way to a lecture, she spotted a swarm of bees. With the knowledge gleaned from her mum, she collected the swarm and soon had a small apiary established on the verandah of her Cousin Frank's house. Her interest in science and thirst for knowledge was strong, teaching herself many skills in beekeeping. This drive and her practical way of approaching problems and challenges have continued to this day, and the Australian beekeeping industry can be grateful for this passion.

As the little apiary in Roseville expanded, Gretchen began to relocate hives to family property in that region. Gretchen purchased a house in Newport in 1963, commuting between Sydney and the Hawkesbury, and later from St Ives where she lived with her Aunt for a time. She developed interests in commercial queen rearing and honey bee breeding that were to become the focus of her life's work in apiculture, running parallel to her practical interest in horticulture which also continues to this day. A measure of Gretchen's studied approach to horticulture can be gauged by her enrolment in 1960 at the Sydney Technical College where she graduated with a Diploma of Agriculture.

By the mid 1970s, Gretchen was well established as a leading supplier of untested queens to the industry and the export market. Two of her markets were Iran and Afghanistan. She was invited to visit both countries in the mid 1970s. On her arrival her hosts were shocked that Gretchen was a woman. No doubt she made a continuing impression on the beekeepers she met on her trip. In Afghanistan she travelled around on the back of a motor bike. In Australia and overseas, her attention to detail, quality, and customer service were to become known and respected. Her interest in bee breeding had also progressed to the point of acquiring AI equipment and the task of learning the technique, so her aspirations as a breeder would be fulfilled.

In 1976, the Queensland Agricultural College, responding to the initiative of Graham Kleinschmidt, senior lecturer in apiculture, and John Guilfoyle, sponsored a bee breeding school at the college under the tutelage of Professor Jersey Woyke of Poland and Dr Vern Sisson of the USA. Gretchen played an important part in this exercise, both as an assistant to Graham and the tutors, and as a contributor to the outcome of discussion which created the pathways by which was achieved the establishment of Commonwealth quarantine facilities for honeybees at Wallgrove, Sydney, and the conduct of a research project at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC), the aim of which was to establish a honeybee improvement program for Australian beekeepers.

During this period, Gretchen's sustained efforts (through the Sydney Metropolitan Branch of the Commercial Apiarists' Association of NSW) in relation to these programs was pivotal to their implementation. For many years, Gretchen served on the HAC honeybee improvement advisory committee, and provided technical services including AI for the duration of the project. The research project was funded by the statutory Honey Research Committee.

In 1977 the world-renowned German geneticist and bee breeding scientist Professor Frederick Ruttner visited Australia and met Gretchen. At the time Professor Ruttner was the leader of the Institute for Beekeeping at the Oberusel University at Frankfurt. Impressed by Gretchen's ability and attention to detail, he invited Gretchen to enrol at the Institute for advanced tuition in bee breeding, including AI technique.

In July 1978, Gretchen arrived at the Oberusel University where she met for the first time Professor Ruttner's research assistant, Mathilde (Tilly) Kuhnert. They developed a strong friendship and professional bond as colleagues, which later resulted in the delivery of considerable benefit to Australian beekeeping.

It was also in 1978 that Gretchen purchased her Richmond property, on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, just outside of town, and close to the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (now the University of Western Sydney). Assisted by Frank, Gretchen continued her vocation as a large commercial producer of queen bees. She established new premises on the property, which included a start of the art laboratory, specially adapted for the artificial insemination of queen bees, a facility and service provided by Gretchen that has been in considerable demand by beekeepers interested in breeding, researchers, the University of Western Sydney, overseas colleagues and clients, constantly since that time.

Following the purchase of the Richmond property, Gretchen developed a substantial horticultural enterprise on the property. Her pecan tree plantation was established in 1978 along with her special horticultural interest, the many hundreds of varieties of "old fashioned" roses.

At the end of the 1980s, Gretchen decided to close down her queen rearing business in order to concentrate on the horticulture enterprise and to maintain her involvement in bee breeding and research. Her vision for an Australian bee breeding and research facility, sponsored by the industry as an institution, and geared to the systematic genetic improvement of stock, was never very far from the surface.

In 1981 she became centrally involved in a Summer School in bee breeding at the HAC. She was responsible for bringing to Australia, European lecturers to the school in the persons of Dr V Maul, Dr H Pechacker, and Tilly Kuhnert, all distinguished professionals in their respective fields, and whom Gretchen had met or worked with during her time at Oberusel in Germany. She made her laboratory available for the school and her home as a meeting place.

An outcome of the school was that it brought together some of the world's leading experts in bee breeding with Australian counterparts and researchers, resulting in an exchange of information and ideas, and cooperation between them for many years. For example, a young Robin Moritz, today a renowned German geneticist, was brought to the HAC by the Department of Agriculture NSW, to participate in a workshop. Robin had been working on honeybee population genetics in Germany and was able to make a significant contribution to discussion with Australian counterparts that eventually led to the establishment of the research project at HAC to test the feasibility of a honeybee

improvement program in Australia, based on closed population breeding principles. During this period, Gretchen visited European bee breeding institutions on several occasions, to expand her knowledge, and to bring back to Australia ideas and information which could assist bee breeding in Australia.

In 1986 the Honey Research Committee established the Eastern States Bee Breeding project at HAC, modelled on closed population breeding principles, and based on 30 lines recruited from the USA, New Zealand and from within Australia. In 1987, the Honey Research and Development Committee funded the Western Australian bee improvement program. Tilly Kuhnert visited Australia for four successive years until 1992, working with Gretchen to provide all the AI required to maintain both programs.

In addition to the technical services provided, Gretchen assisted greatly with logistical and other back-up support, including the making up and maintenance of nuclei in the bee yards, and so on. Both programs were discontinued in 1992 and taken over by industry consortiums. Gretchen continued to provide the service of artificial insemination of the many hundreds of queens necessary to continue the program.

Currently, Gretchen is assisting John Rhodes in another research project, looking at the fitness of drone stock and its consequences in natural matings. The outcome of this project may have significant implications for the honeybee queen market, and the productivity of commercial honey production in Australia.

In spite of advancing years, and the accompanying physical limitations that eventually come to us all in one way or another, Gretchen's enthusiasm for the industry and for the craft of beekeeping remains undiminished. Her contribution to the advancement of apiculture in this country has been significant, and worthy of recognition.

HONEY BEE BREEDING AND GENETICS SEMINAR

When: Saturday the 12 December 2009

Where: The University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury)

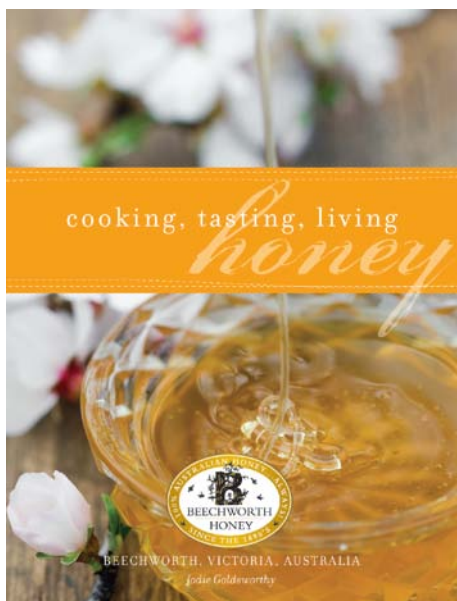
The launch of the Wheen Foundation trust fund will be accompanied with a series of scientific talks on honey bee breeding and genetics on Saturday the 12 December at the University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury) at Richmond. Starting time 9:30, lunch provided. It is necessary to register and a \$30 cost will be payable on the day. If you wish to attend please register by the end of November by emailing or leaving a message with either Julie Lockhart, Secretary of the NSW Apiarists' Association, on Phone: 02 9631 3934, Email nswaa@bigpond.net.au, or Doug Somerville at doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Speakers for the day already include Sue Cobey from the USA who will be conducting an introductory Instrumental Insemination course the week before the seminar and an advanced course the week following the seminar. Sue will speak on 'Bee Breeding programs in the USA'. Dr Ben Oldroyd from Sydney University will speak on 'The difficulties of bee breeding'; Dr Peter Oxley from Sydney University will speak on the 'Identification of genes related to hygienic behaviour in honey bees.'

Dr Rob Manning from Western Australia has agreed to attend and talk on hygienic behaviour within the Western Australian Bee Breeding program. Dr Charles Claudianos from the Queensland Brain

Institute, University of Queensland has indicated he will attend. The title of his talk is yet to be determined. There are a number of other scientists that have indicated their interest in attending and providing talks on the day. The titles are yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested in honey bee breeding I suggest that you put this date on your calendar and plan on attending. Sponsors for the day include, the Wheen Foundation, NSW Apiarists' Association, NSW DPI, University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury) and RIRDC.



“COOKING, TASTING, LIVING HONEY” BY JODIE GOLDSWORTHY

A beautiful full colour Australian honey book long overdue

Beekeepers all know that honey is one of nature's truly amazing products but unfortunately not enough of the population see honey as beekeepers do. Jodie Goldsworthy, a fourth generation beekeeper herself from Beechworth Honey, has put together a delicious book about everything the average consumer never knew they needed to know about Australian honey. This creatively photographed collection of recipes, tasting notes and life journeys showcases honey as most will have never experienced it before. This book helps readers understand the extraordinary work of bees and their vital task of pollinating plants and thereby sustaining life for us all.

What makes *Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey* unique is the insight into the lives of one family's involvement as beekeepers since the 1880's. Their intricate knowledge and passion for honey, the bees that harvest the many and varied nectars, and the Australian bush have been passed down through four generations. Jodie Goldsworthy shares some of their stories with love and pride, as well as a wealth of knowledge about Australian honey and how to use it in our kitchens.

This full colour book will stand out on any coffee table or kitchen. It has been written following hundreds of requests for such a publication from visitors to the Beechworth Honey Experience the hugely successful educational jewel created by Beechworth Honey's to positively and innovatively promote Australian honey. The centre receives more than 80,000 visitors a year and is open every day except Christmas day in historic Beechworth. One of Jodie's biggest motivators is to bring greater returns to Australian beekeepers to improve their viability and future. Jodie draws the link between beekeepers and food produced in Australia through honeybee pollination. Through releasing *Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey* Jodie hope's to educate the community further of the importance of beekeeping through a beautifully photographed and edited journey of Australian honey.

Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey will be available through selected outlets and in store at the Beechworth Honey Experience ready for Christmas in early December. If you would like to pre order this beautiful book for your family or friends we are now taking pre release orders which can be signed, gift wrapped and delivered just in time for Christmas. The special pre sale price is \$39.95 (including postage and handling within Australia) and orders can be placed by telephone (02) 6033 2322 or email to info@beechworthhoney.com.au.

VALE GRAHAM KLEINSCHMIDT
1934 – 2009

Graham Kleinschmidt's ability and dedication to beekeeping resulted in an exponential growth of knowledge of practical importance to beekeeping from his life's work. Research, led by Graham at Gatton College, commencing in 1967 and continuing through the 1970s and 1980s, provided many of the building blocks of knowledge that support the modern beekeeping industry.

Graham's early years at Rocky Point, Queensland, helping his father, a professional fisherman, collect colonies of bees out of mangrove trees stimulated his interest in beekeeping. After completing his Diploma at Gatton College in 1951, Graham joined the staff of the Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton (QAC), assisting Barry Higginbotham, the instructor in beekeeping, fostering Graham's interest in honey bees.

I met Graham as a junior student at the College in 1953-54. At that time Graham was a Junior Officer. Though quiet, and probably shy, his interest in and enthusiasm for beekeeping was obvious. When Barry Higginbotham departed the position in 1955, Graham assumed leadership of the beekeeping section. He provided instruction and led beekeeping research at QAC throughout his career, attaining the position of Senior Lecturer.

Graham's dedication and willingness to go the extra mile saw the development of a commercial size apiary at QAC which provided the number of colonies needed to achieve statistically reliable research results and provide students practical beekeeping experience.

Charles Roff, the Senior Apiculturist with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries became both a mentor and colleague of Graham's. Together they commenced week long summer schools in beekeeping at QAC in the latter half of the 1950s and these continued for many years. During Graham's career, an Associate Diploma Course majoring in Apiculture was conducted at QAC, which along with apiculture instruction for other courses, gave many students the knowledge needed for application in careers in the beekeeping, seed production and agricultural service industries.

QAC gained a high reputation for apicultural research which flowed onto seed production companies. Financial support and support in kind was received from seed companies and growers, from the Honey Research Committee of RIRDC and QAC.

Recognising the need for easy industry access to the large volume of practical research results available by 1985, the Queensland Beekeepers Association proposed the production and sale of the Kleinschmidt Research Papers in book form. With the co-operation of the QAC this project was achieved in 1986.

Graham presided at the World Beekeeping Congress on the Gold Coast to celebrate Australia's bi-centenary of European settlement in 1988. Graham was made a recipient of the Goodacre Memorial Award at this highly successful function.

In the early 1980's, Graham was awarded life membership by the Queensland Beekeepers Association.

Following his retirement, Graham provided further industry service as Chairman of the Honey Research Committee.

Graham Kleinschmidt was an unpretentious Australian dedicated to expanding beekeeping knowledge and providing young people the opportunity and knowledge they needed for their careers. He counted the training of so many people his greatest achievement and his greatest reward came in the application of his research by the beekeeping industry.

Of course Graham had many helpers, in particular the support of his wife Marie, who all helped achieve the fruit of Graham's energy and dedication.

With heartfelt sympathy to Marie and all Graham's loved ones, we can celebrate Graham's life. A life that created so much new knowledge; knowledge that will be a lasting memorial beyond all our mortal lives.

Rest in peace Graham; you are held in the highest esteem by your peers.

Don Keith
14 October 2009

INTERNATIONAL HONEY EXPORTERS ORGANISATION (IHEO)



At the recent IHEO Meeting held at Apimondia 2009 in Montpellier, France, Mr Ed Planken was presented with a very nice award recognizing his role as President of the IHEO for the past 10 years.

Ed is to be congratulated for his efforts over the past 10 years and as Australians we should feel very proud of the way that through Ed's contributions Australia has been seen as a professional and capable country well suited to the role of President whereby all major honey producing countries have felt comfortable that the issues affecting bulk honey exports were being diplomatically well handled.

Ed handed over his role as President to Mexico to Ingrid Beutelspacher.

Jodie Goldsworthy

MAF ACTS ON HONEY REPORT – New Zealand

15 September 2009

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has considered the findings of an independent panel report on the requirements governing proposed future imports of bee products from Australia.

MAF developed the requirements, known as an Import Health Standard (IHS), in 2006 but it was legally challenged by New Zealand's bee industry. A subsequent judgement by the Court of Appeal quashed the IHS.

In 2008, legislation was passed reinstating the IHS, but requiring a suspension on imports of Australian honey until an independent review panel had reported to the MAF Director General on aspects of the scientific evidence and risks associated with the proposed imports, and the Director General had then made a determination on whether any amendment to the requirements was required.

The Director General has now reviewed those findings – in particular its recommendations for MAF to further consider science and risks posed by four organisms with potential impacts on the bee industry: European foulbrood (EFB); *Paenibacillus alvei*; *Nosema ceranae*; and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV).

The report concluded that there is no need to make changes to the IHS as it relates to measures to manage the risks associated with European foulbrood.

However, due to a lack of information and/or uncertainty in relation to the other three organisms – *P.alvei*, *N. ceranae*, and IAPV – the Director General has concluded that he is unable to make a judgement about aspects of the IHS relating to those organisms until MAF undertakes further work.

He also believes that recent evidence confirms the presence of *P.alvei* in New Zealand and therefore MAF will be approaching ERMA to have the status of this organism reassessed.

N. ceranae and IAPV are organisms that emerged internationally as disease threats for beekeeping during the course of the MAF risk analysis and import health standard development process.

Although MAF did look into the risks associated with these diseases late in the development of the risk analysis, there remains uncertainty as to their presence or absence in New Zealand and their susceptibility to the proposed heat treatment.

MAF will therefore undertake surveillance to determine the presence or absence of *N. ceranae* and IAPV in New Zealand. Work will also begin on a supplementary risk analysis for these organisms to help make decisions on their management should they prove not to be present in New Zealand.

This work programme, while potentially taking up to two years to complete, may be completed sooner.

Honey imports from Australia will not resume until this work is completed and the IHS is able to be reassessed in the light of the results of this work.

The full independent panel report is available at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/beeprorc.aus.htm>

REPORT ON APIMONDIA 2009

The latest Apimondia Congress was held in Montpellier in southern France in September. 10,000 delegates attended and filled the conference venue and ApiExpo. There was also an outreach program for school children and visitors to the area who were not involved in beekeeping that was highly successful in demonstrating various aspects of the industry.

There were detailed reports on research and developments affecting the industry in a comprehensive range of areas.

One session was devoted to a new problem for the honeybee industry in southern France in particular and potentially the industry worldwide generally. The Southeast Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*, was accidentally introduced into southern France in 2004 and has now spread to 25 of the 94 continental local government areas in the country.

Eradication is now regarded as impossible and it is expected to expand further in to Europe. The hornet preys on honey bees and eventually destroys the colonies. Research on mitigating this potential problem is still at a very early stage.

The research on existing pest problems continues and the latest developments in the various fields for the various tests were provided at the Congress.

Another session was devoted to presenting the research from around the world on the production and profitability benefits for farmers from honeybee pollination of various crops. The research was overwhelmingly supportive of the benefits for farmers from using these pollination services

In other developments, the president of Apimondia Asger Jorgansen resigned and was replaced by Gilles Rattia from France and Ukraine was chosen to hold the Apimondia Congress in 2013 after Buenos Aires in 2011.

There was much praise from delegates at Montpellier who attended the Melbourne Congress on how they appreciated the work and friendliness of the Australian honeybee industry in making them feel welcome.

Terry Ryan
Apimondia 2007 Chair

APIS CERANA UPDATE

3 October 2009

The phone hook-up occurred on Friday 2 October, 2009. Both Rodney Ruge and I were present. In the previous fortnight there have been three (3) finds of cerana.

On Tuesday 22 September, a nest was located in an attic in a Cairns city hotel in the centre of Cairns. This is IP46. This was the nest that was being searched for after the detection of the swarm, IP45, in Cairns city.

On Friday 25 September, a small swarm was found at White Rock. This is just south of Cairns and has had finds before. This is IP47. It was estimated at less than 100 bees.

On Monday 28 September, a swarm, which had been destroyed, was reported from Yarrabah. This is IP48. It was very small. This is ENE from the main Cairns area but still within the RA. The aboriginal ranger reported it and the area leading into Yarrabah has been searched with no foraging bees found.

With these small swarms, I am wondering if we are starting to see the effects of severe inbreeding? No cerana have been found in Mareeba since the initial nest and swarm.

A new Community Engagement officer has started working with the Asian bees. It is crucial that we maintain the excellent support that has been received to date from the public.

There was a meeting with beekeepers on Thursday night, 1 October, in Mareeba to discuss the new RA and its implications for the beekeepers. The new RA can be seen at:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/AnimalIndustries_OtherAnimals/AHB-Restricted-Area-Map.pdf

Sugar feeding stations have not seen any cerana at them.

Bee eater pellets continue to be collected but are dropping off in numbers. There was a positive cerana find in pellets collected from McLeod Street in Cairns on 11 September. This would co-incide with IP46 which is well within flying range.

This positive find reassures us that the method of checking the pellets is working and the positive is well within expectations so is not of concern.

18 October 2009

The phone hook-up did not occur this fortnight as up to Thursday morning we had had no finds and we had a phone hook-up on Wednesday to go over the conditions of the RA.

Things changed later on Thursday with a find of a small swarm on a wooden pallet in the port area of Cairns. This is IP49. The swarm was small, about the size of a fist.

There has been active surveillance in the Mareeba, Cairns and Yarrabah areas. No more sightings of cerana at any location.

The phone hook-up re the RA was to clarify some aspects of the operation of the RA for the beekeepers. These matters were resolved. The next phone hook-up is scheduled for Friday 30 October.

Trevor Weatherhead

RIRDC HONEYBEE R&D COMMITTEE

The new Committee has been appointed: Dr Denis Anderson (CSIRO Entomologist), Prof Ben Oldroyd (University of Sydney Geneticist) and Mr Bruce White (former Technical Specialist, Apiculture, NSW DPI). This Committee will take the Honeybee Program through to 30 June, 2012.

CHANGES TO HONEY BEE LEVY ARRANGEMENTS

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has advised of the changes to the National Residue Survey/EADRA levy arrangements, as requested by AHBIC on 7 September 2009. The *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Regulations 1999*, the *Primary Industries (Customs) Charges*

Regulations 2000 and the Primary Industries Levies and Charges (National Residue Survey Levies) Regulations 1998 now reflect these amendments. The changes will apply from 1 October 2009.

The amended Regulations provide for an increase to the existing Emergency Animal Disease Response levy and charge on honey from 0.5 cents per kilogram to 0.7 cents per kilogram and decrease the National Residue Survey (NRS) excise levy and charge on honey from 0.3 cents per kilogram to 0.1 cents per kilogram. The Regulations can be view at www.frli.gov.au after accessing the “what’s new” link.

The funds will continue to be administered by the National Residue Survey in respect of NRS funds and by Animal Health Australia in respect of the emergency animal disease funds.

STOP PRESS

Outcomes of the re-convened Annual General Meeting held in Melbourne on 12 October will be included in the next edition of AHBIC News.