

Monthly NEWS



To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

OCTOBER 2013

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC.

We urge beekeepers to support those Packers/Queen Bee Breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

Does your HONEY BUYER or QUEENBEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?

If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 September 2012

Some contributors have asked to remain anonymous while others have not supplied their publication wishes

AB'S Honey	Ewington, P & M	Papworth, F & E
Adams, Richard	FCAAA	Pluschke, Doug
Auckett, John	Geelong Beekeepers Club	Pobke, Barry
Barnes Apiaries	Gells Honey	Pritchett, Bruce
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc	Gillies, Hugh	Proebstl Investments
Beswick Bees	Glasby, Garry	R. Stephens
Blair-Hickman, R & R	Green, Lionel	Richter, Phil
Bliss, Stephen	Grosso, Joe	Ringin, Bill
Bourke, Lindsay	Hoskinson, HL& HM	Roberts, I J & J H
Buntine, Robert	Ipswich/West Moreton	Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)	Beekeepers Assoc	Schard, Peter
Camelite Monastery	Jones, Daniel	Siacci, Colin
Camilleri, Michael	Kennett, JL & KA	Squire, Gary
Capilano Honey Ltd	Kininmonth, Ian	Stokes, Peter
Clifford, Ray	Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos	Superbee
Constantelos, Stan	Lees IP & LD	Sutherland, Karen
Cotton, A J &	Leo, Victor	Thompson, G
Crabb, David	Lockley, Beverley	Triantafillopoulos, Stavros
Cutts, Neville	MacGibbon, Kevin	Vu, Dinh Long
D'Amico, John	McAlister, Ross	Watson, Maurice
Dawes, Chris John	McDonald, RG	Weatherhead, T & M
Davey, RE	McGlew, GC	Weerona Apiaries
Daybreak Apiaries	Merrett, Anthony J	Wescobee Limited
Dewar Apiaries	Miller, Clem	Williams JW & MA
Doncaster Bee Club	Morabito, Bruno	Wisken, Ian
Doyle, Anthony	Morgan, Trevor	Wythe, EC & HS
Dunlop, PG & RD	Niacol Pty Ltd	Zadow Apiaries
Ellis, Declan	Nairn, Mal	Zuchowski, Janusz
Enslin, Darren	Norcic, John	

Thank you to all our contributors. AHBIC appreciates your ongoing support

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AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDING PROGRAM

The Australian Queen Bee Breeding Program (AQBBP) is run by the Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group (AQBBG) which is owned by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). It aims to provide breeding stock from evaluated queens for our industry.

The original program was started with 15 lines donated by beekeepers Australia wide. It has since been cut to 14. It is run as a closed population program but does have the capacity to add new genetics, particularly through the drones used for insemination.

New stock has just been inseminated as part of the ongoing maintenance of the lines and some stock may be available if someone wants to purchase a young breeder queen.

Evaluation data on the lines is posted at <http://honeybee.org.au/programs/queen-bee-breeding/>

CONFERENCE DATES

There has been a change to the dates for the New South Wales Apiarists Association conference and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association conference.

These are the dates as I have them at present.

Queensland Beekeepers Association	12 – 13 June	Toowoomba
New South Wales Apiarists Association	8 - 9 May	Narrabri
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	30 - 31 May	
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	6 June	Perth
South Australian Apiarists Association	19-20 June	
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 – 8 July	Melbourne
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA	
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA	
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA	
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association	9 July	Melbourne
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	9 July	Melbourne

COURSE INFORMATION

Rosie Stern, the AHBIC Education Chair has asked the following:-

All persons running any courses in Beekeeping across Australia for 2013 to contact Rosie Stern, Chairperson of Education Committee of AHBIC via email on rosiest@bigpond.net.au.

Require

- 1.Name of course
- 2.Contact person name, email address and phone number
- 3.Date of course, length of course, fee, location
- 4.Target group
- 5.Competencies covered (if known).

I will pass all information, in a clear table onto AHBIC to place onto website.

I have had enquiries about short introduction to Beekeeping courses but I am unaware of what each state runs.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ANALYSIS

Period	Combined		Packed Exports Tonnes	Bulk Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports %	Bulk Exports Tonnes	Bulk Exports %
	Imports Tonnes	Exports Tonnes						
Mar-13								
Dec-13								
Sep-13								
Jun-13	766	1,251	760	491				
YTD	766	1,251	760	491	760	61%	491	39%
Mar-13	414	1,165	574	591				
Dec-12	652	1,065	576	489				
Sep-12	1113	1,036	626	410				
Jun-12	1049	1,157	609	548				
Total	3,228	4,423	2,385	2,038	2,385	54%	2,038	46%
Mar-12	975	1,305	544	761				
Dec-11	782	1,501	543	957				
Sep-11	831	961	422	539				
Jun-11	658	1,104	529	575				
Total	3,246	4,871	2,038	2,832	2,038	42%	2,832	58%

For the last Financial Year the imported honey grouped came from the following destinations:

Argentina = 36.1%
 China = 34.9%
 New Zealand = 20.2%
 Others = 8.8%
 ~~~~~  
 Total = 100%

### TASMANIAN APIARY OFFICER

Tasmania has a new apiary officer, Karla Williams. The contact details are:-

Karla Williams

Program Specialist - Apiary  
 Quarantine Tasmania\*  
 Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.  
 3rd Floor  
 169 Main Road  
 MOONAH TAS 7009

Ph: 03) 6233 9418 Fax: 03) 6233 8885 Mobile 0407 436 230  
 Email: [karla.williams@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:karla.williams@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)

## REQUEST FOR HELP

### Name

Nicholas Harrington

### Email

[nick.harrington@manjeriproject.org](mailto:nick.harrington@manjeriproject.org)

### Message

Hello,

I am the founding director of an Australian sustainable development charity (The Manjeri School Project) and we operate in rural Uganda empowering local communities. We are partnering up with a local apiculture association in Uganda after discovering the huge potential apiculture has on poor communities. We were wondering if you knew anyone who might be interested in donating some bee keeping equipment or in-kind consultation?

Kind regards,

Nicholas Harrington  
0431 099 552

## NEW IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR TASMANIA

The following has been put out by the Tasmanian Department.

The requirements for the importation of queen bees into Tasmania have been changed.

The main change is that queen bees and escorts now need to be inspected for small hive beetle by a government officer on arrival in Tasmania.

For bees coming by post this will be done in the Australia Post mail centres. Packages identified as containing live bees will be held and opened for quarantine officers to inspect. If no evidence of small hive beetles is detected the packaging will be resealed and continue through the postal system.

Packages containing queen bees should be addressed to the receiving beekeeper as normal but must be identified as containing live bees. The live bee sticker that queen bee breeders have been using for a number of years is sufficient to meet this identification requirement. These stickers will allow postal staff to identify queen bees and hold them for inspection.

Any bees coming into Tasmania other than by post must be presented to a quarantine officer on arrival in Tasmania.

Other conditions include:

- the apiary of origin must have an active surveillance and management plan in place for small hive beetles,
- the queen bees and escorts must be hand caught, inspected and found free of small hive beetle prior to placing in queen cages,
- queen cages must be new and have mesh with holes less than 2 mm x 2mm, or slots longer than 2 mm must be less than 1mm wide,
- external packaging must carry a statement on contrasting background indicating the package contains live bees.

Even though the bees will be inspected by quarantine staff, the relieving bee keeper must still inspect the bees before placing them in a hive and notify the DPIPWWE if they detect any small hive beetle.

The certificate that is to accompany the queen bees has also changed and the new certificate along with the full version of the importation requirements is available on the [DPIPWE web site](#).

For any enquiries please contact Karla Williams on (03) 6233 9418 or email [Karla.Williams@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au](mailto:Karla.Williams@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au).

## HONEY WEEK COMMITTEE

Leilani Leyland, Chair of the Honey Week Committee has provided the following information.

A National Honey Month Committee has been formed to co-ordinate this annual event to be held across Australia. Western Australia held a very successful Honey Week in 2012 and 2013, following a recent phone hook-up it was suggested that to give more flexibility to all states it would be called Honey Month. This month will be May each year.

Some ideas that have come up so far are

- Honey tastings or celebrations at existing honey tourism venues
- School visits at local schools by individual beekeepers or a branch
- Branch honey baking competitions in an area
- Meet the beekeepers of xyz region
- Screening / hosting of honeybee documentaries
- Honey dinners in conjunction with local pubs, clubs or restaurants which could include guest speakers
- Honey tastings and demonstrations at other events, eg Ag Fest Tasmania

Representatives from each state on the committee are as follows, please feel free to contact any of them with any ideas that you have with regards to the promotion of Beekeeping and Honey during Honey Month.

|                    |                    |                                                                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Western Australia: | Leilani Leyland    | <a href="mailto:beesneez@inet.net.au">beesneez@inet.net.au</a>                         |
| Tasmania:          | Shirley Stephens   | <a href="mailto:busybees@leatherwoodhoney.com.au">busybees@leatherwoodhoney.com.au</a> |
| South Australia:   | Martin Gilbert     | <a href="mailto:martygilbert@bigpond.com">martygilbert@bigpond.com</a>                 |
| New South Wales:   | Karla Hudson       | <a href="mailto:karla@superbee.com.au">karla@superbee.com.au</a>                       |
| Queensland:        | Marion Weatherhead | <a href="mailto:queenbee50@bigpond.com">queenbee50@bigpond.com</a>                     |
| Victoria:          | Jodie Goldsworthy  | <a href="mailto:Jodie@beechworthhoney.com.au">Jodie@beechworthhoney.com.au</a>         |
| Nthn Territory:    | Graham Beech       | <a href="mailto:ntbees@gmail.com">ntbees@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| AHBIC              | Ian Zadow          | <a href="mailto:immjzad@bigpond.com">immjzad@bigpond.com</a>                           |

## ASIAN BEE PAPER

The following paper has just come out with regard to the Asian bees in Cairns.

**Koetz, A.H. 2013. Ecology, Behaviour and Control of *Apis cerana* with a Focus on Relevance to the Australian Incursion. *Insects*, 4, 558-592.**

Abstract: *Apis cerana* Fabricius is endemic to most of Asia, where it has been used for honey production and pollination services for thousands of years. Since the 1980s, *A. cerana* has been introduced to areas outside its natural range (namely New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Australia), which sparked fears that it may become a pest species that could compete with, and negatively affect, native Australian fauna and flora, as well as commercially kept *A. mellifera* and commercial crops. This literature review is a response to these concerns and reviews what is known about the ecology and behaviour of *A. cerana*. Differences between temperate and tropical strains of *A. cerana* are reviewed, as are *A. cerana* pollination, competition between *A. cerana* and *A. mellifera*, and the impact and control strategies of introduced *A. cerana*, with a particular focus on gaps of current knowledge.

<http://www.mdpi.com/2075-4450/4/4/558>

## LATEST QUEEN BEE IMPORT INFORMATION

With the re-opening of the Eastern Creek Quarantine facility the first queen bees have arrived. They came from Canada.

During the inspection of the escorts, varroa mites were found on four (4), out of approximately eighty (80), of the escorts. Whilst at first glance this is disappointing, it is an important reminder that this process of importation does have safeguards where any varroa are picked up without them having any chance of being introduced into the Australian bee population.

There has been a telephone hook-up with the Department of Agriculture, AHBIC and Dr. Denis Anderson and it has been agreed to allow the queens to proceed through the rest of the import protocol. The protocol does not put our industry at risk. After all, the varroa have now been destroyed.

The finding of these varroa on the escorts brings home to our industry that if we did not have this secure import path, then people could be looking at illegally importing queen bees. It can be seen how easily varroa mites can be on escorts despite examination at the point of export to Australia. So it is important that this secure pathway be available for those wishing to import queen bees and it's encouraging to see that the Government is taking a practical approach to the import process so that people aren't encouraged to go the illegal route.

This is not the first time that varroa has been found on escorts accompanying queen bees coming into Australia. We had a case back in 2001 where the procedures adopted then were similar to what is being adopted now. The import at that time was successful without any problems and it would be expected that at this time, if the queen bee imports pass the rest of the protocol, then again we will have no problems.

## APIMONDIA



Apimondia President Gilles Ratia in front of the jubilant Turkish delegation

Apimondia has just been held in Kiev in the Ukraine. Bruce White was our Australian Honey Bee Industry Council representative at Apimondia. Bruce will be producing a report for AHBIC so I will be able to pass on information in the next newsletter.

Information has already come out that Istanbul, Turkey will be the host in 2017. The 2015 Apimondia will be in Daejeon, South Korea.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013-2014 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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## TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name: .....

Address: .....  
.....

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

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

### Yes I wish to support my industry

Up to 50 hives = \$50.00       51 and over hives = \$1.00 per hive

*Please circle your preference*

yes / no

Please publicise my name on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter

yes / no

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

yes / no

Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (*email preferred*)

Your contribution can be paid by **CHEQUE** (or Money Order) or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

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- ♦ email your details (as above) to [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

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BSB: 062 198  
Account No: 1022 2090

*Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.  
It is gratefully appreciated.*

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