



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

October 2016

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 QUEEN BEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 November 2015

There are a few other contributors – some wishing to remain anonymous and some not indicating their wishes

AB's Honey
Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Ayrleigh Apiaries
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bejo Tasmania P/L
Bluebees Producers
Blue Hills Honey
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Buntine, Robert
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Costa, Paul
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Davey, Robin

Davies Apiaries
Dewar Apiaries
Dewar, Robert
Dinsdale, Julie
Enslin, Darren
Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society
Green, Lionel
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Bryn and Warren
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Le Feuvre, Danny
Lyneham, Matthew
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane

Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Association Inc.
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pavy, Rodney & Gail
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Rotary Club of Caulfield
Ruge Honey
Smith, Bruce & Carolyn
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Tasmanian Honey Company
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Zadow, Ian and Mel

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

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ASIAN BEES AND *VARROA JACOBSONI* IN TOWNSVILLE

Information is sent out in the information notes as it comes to hand.

At this stage our volunteer program has been working well. A decision will need to be made as to when we stop for the wet season and then re-commence after the wet season.

BEECONNECTED

BeeConnected is an app that has been developed for use by beekeepers, farmers and pesticide applicators to try to avoid bee poisonings. I have written about this before but there does not seem to be a reasonable uptake of this app.

In recent discussions with Cotton Australia to try to avoid bee poisonings, they are very supportive of BeeConnected and they will be encouraging their growers to use it.

On top of this AHBIC will be contacting groups such as the Aerial Applicators Association and the Crop Consultants Association to encourage them to have their members use BeeConnected.

Cotton Australia will also be carrying out a communication exercise around December to February with their growers to alert them of the possible use of native vegetation by beekeepers when they would be wanting to spray cotton.

Our discussions with Cotton Australia have been very fruitful and it is now up to beekeepers to help themselves by using the BeeConnected app.

HONEY MONTH COMMITTEE

As there has been no response to our call for someone to take on the Chair of the Honey Month Committee, the Executive have decided to dissolve the Committee.

State Associations are encouraged to keep up promotion in their State. It does not necessarily have to be during May.

DRONE BEE SEMEN IMPORTATION

Disappointingly the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has put out the final protocol which does not meet our industry requirements. Further action is being taken to have this corrected and not put our biosecurity at risk.

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

To date there has been no change in the situation despite enquiries by our Government people in Saudi Arabia.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

At this stage still no reply from the USDA to the information supplied by our Department.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2017, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	13 May - Perth
New South Wales Apiarists Association	18 & 19 May - Ballina
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	26 & 27 May - Hobart
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 & 8 June
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Aust.	23 June
Queensland Beekeepers Association	29 June – 1 July - Gympie
South Australian Apiarists Association	6 & 7 July- Adelaide
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

The AHBIC AGM will be held in South Australia in 2017.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no: 107621
Product name: Rygel Bifenthrin 100EC Insecticide/Miticide
Active constituent/s: 100 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name: Profeng Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 156 055 533
Summary of variation: To change the distinguishing product name and the name that appears on the label from 'AC BEAST INSECTICIDE' to 'RYGEL BIFENTHRIN 100EC INSECTICIDE/MITICIDE'
Date of variation: 12 August 2016
Product registration no.: 66605
Label approval no.: 66605/107621

Application no.: 107677
Product name: Barmac Abamectin Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 18 g/L abamectin
Applicant name: Amgrow Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 100 684 786
Summary of use: For the control of certain mites on cotton, citrus, apples, capsicums, hops, pears, tomatoes, ornamentals and strawberries and native budworm on cotton
Date of registration/approval: 30 September 2016
Product registration no.: 83173
Label approval no.: 83173/107677

Application no.: 103290
Product name: Venom 240 SC Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 240 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name: Adama Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN: 050 328 973
Summary of use: For the control of a range of insect pests and mites in some fruits and crops
Date of registration/approval: 30 September 2016
Product registration no.: 81526
Label approval no.: 81526/103290

Application no.: 103202
Product name: Skope Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 218 g/L acetamiprid, 32.5 g/L emamectin present as emamectin benzoate
Applicant name: Adama Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN: 050 328 973
Summary of use: For control of cotton aphid, green mirid, green vegetable bug, heliothis and silverleaf whitefly in cotton
Date of registration/approval: 11 October 2016
Product registration no.: 81486
Label approval no.: 81486/103202

Application no.: 106114
Product name: Starkle 200 SG Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 200 g/kg dinotefuran
Applicant name: Agnova Technologies Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 097 705 158
Summary of variation: To extend the use to include aerial application
Date of variation: 29 September 2016
Label approval no.: 69398/106114

Application no.: 105618
Active constituent/s: Bifenthrin
Applicant name: FMC Australasia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 095 326 891
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 6 October 2016
Approval no.: 82386

Application no.: 107468
Product name: Apparent Sinister—Systemic Insecticide RTU
Active constituent/s: 0.125 g/L imidacloprid
Applicant name: Apparent Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 143 724 136
Summary of use: For the systemic control of various insect pests on flowers, shrubs, trees, fruit trees and vegetables in the home garden
Date of registration/approval: 18 October 2016
Product registration no.: 83081
Label approval no.: 83081/107468

Application no.: 103512
Product name: Hoprole 300 WG Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 300 g/kg indoxacarb
Applicant name: Shandong Rainbow International Co., Ltd
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For the control of lepidopteran species of insect pests in certain vegetable and fruit crops
Date of registration/approval: 20 October 2016
Product registration no.: 81638
Label approval no.: 81638/103512

Application no.: 103567
Product name: Sumitomo Samurai Systemic Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 500 g/kg clothianidin
Applicant name: Sumitomo Chemical Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN: 081 096 255
Summary of variation: To extend the use to include the control of Queensland and Mediterranean fruit flies in persimmons, pome and stone fruit and grapes
Date of variation: 13 October 2016
Label approval no.: 60687/103567

B-QUAL

The B-QUAL board has met recently and Barry Pobke was re-elected as Chair. However, in accepting the role of Chair, Barry indicated this would be his last year as Chair.

The Directors are Wayne Fuller, Dr. Nicholas Chantler AM and Lindsay Bourke has taken over from Ian Zadow.

The review of the training packages is progressing well and there will be more to report on this shortly.

NEW SAAA SECRETARY

The South Australian Apiarists Association has a new Secretary, Renae Arnold. We look forward to meeting Renae. The AHBIC AGM will be in Adelaide next year so AHBIC Council members will have the opportunity to meet Renae then.

At the same time AHBIC would like to thank Wendy Thiele for her sterling service to our industry during her time as Secretary. Wendy was very helpful when approached.

CATEGORISATION

As the Categorisation Committee of relevant parties looking at *Varroa destructor* could not come to a consensus, the matter of the Categorisation of *V. destructor* was referred to the Board of Plant Health Australia.

The Board has come back to relevant parties asking for more information. AHBIC will supply the information requested.

This Categorisation could have an effect on the Categorisation of *V. jacobsoni*, which is the subject of the eradication program in Townsville. Currently it is Category 3, which is 50:50, which is the default position in the absence of a pest having been categorised.

Once *V. destructor* has been categorised, work will then proceed on the other requests for Categorisation of *Tropilaelaps clareae* and *T. mercedesae*, which AHBIC had submitted.

BEE BIOSECURITY VIDEOS

Plant Health Australia has advised the videos they were preparing are now available.

“The series of 12 videos covers a broad range of topics including honey bee biosecurity and surveillance programs, a hypothetical varroa incursion in Australia and what it might mean for beekeepers and crop producers, information about the life cycle of varroa and hive inspections, and ways in which varroa can be controlled if it enters and becomes established in Australia.”

You will be able to locate these videos from:

Farm Biosecurity YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcPUFII5bhJEfcx9hX8fkWHM2fTrtXmlt>

BeeAware website under ‘Videos’ <http://beeaware.org.au/videos/>

SAMPLING POISONED BEES

The following is put out by Agriculture Victoria but I am sure it would have relevance for all beekeepers Australia wide.

Tips for beekeepers on collecting chemical residue samples

Alex Perera - Leading Chemical Standards Officer

How many bees does it take to change a light bulb? A buzzillion. But if you need to collect a sample of bees for residue analysis, you only need 300.

Agriculture Victoria staff have recently put together a simple factsheet for beekeepers on how to collect samples if they suspect their bees may have been poisoned.

The factsheet covers:

- what to do and who to contact if you suspect your bees have been poisoned;
- three different types of sampling methods;
- how to prevent cross-contamination, and
- what other information could be collected to help Agriculture Victoria officers investigating the matter.

The factsheet is available from the Agriculture Victoria Chemical Use website at: agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse or from the Agriculture Victoria Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



Dead bees outside a hive, which are suspected of having died as a result of spray drift.



Image - "Sampling bees for residue testing" factsheet

Chemical Industry News to become e-newsletter

After a more than a 20 year print run, Chemical Industry News is soon to be moving to a new e-newsletter format. Future editions will be sent out to subscribers via email and articles will be able to be viewed via links online to the Agriculture Victoria website.

The editors of Chemical Industry News would like to extend their thanks to you for the many years of support you have shown to the mail-out version. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the latest on all things Chemical in Victoria.

To ensure you receive the next edition of Chemical Industry News via e-news sign up by emailing: paul.dennis@delwp.vic.gov.au

NEWS SOUTH WALES BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER

Unfortunately, due to family reasons, the New South Wales Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO), Hayley Pragert, has resigned. We wish Hayley well for the future. The BBO position will be advertised soon.

BEEAWARE WEBSITE VISITORS

This is the first page plus top pages of a report on the usage of the BeeAware. There are many more pages on the breakdown of sections visited etc. If anyone wants the full report let me know and I will forward to you.

Google Analytics Report #4: 1 April – 30 September 2016

BeeAware Website

Overview of visitors:

According to Google analytics, there were 32,269 visits to the BeeAware website between 1 April and 30 September 2016. The graph below shows an increase in visits to the website since June 2016, with the greatest number of visits in September 2016. About 80% of users are visiting the website for the first time, while 20% have visited previously.

The majority of visitors to the BeeAware website are consistently from Australia (48%) followed by the USA (23%) as can be seen in the below table.

**Number of sessions
1 April – 30 September 2016**

Country	Number of sessions
Australia	15,594
USA	7,318
UK	1,597
India	1,090
Canada	1,012
NZ	708
South Africa	264
Germany	224

Top pages and source of traffic:

The BeeAware home page was the most visited page during the period 1 April and 30 September 2016, followed by the varroa, small hive beetle and the industry pages. These have consistently been the top pages visited over the last year.

The number of visits to the Varroa mite page and the Asian honey bee page have more than doubled since the last period, averaging out to 726 views per month this period, versus 435 views per month between 1 January and 31 March 2016. It is likely this increase relates to the recent Varroa mite/Asian honey bee incursion in Townsville, with a number of articles referring to BeeAware as a source of more information on these pests. The 'preparing for Varroa mite' page has also received a much higher number of views (from 67 views per month to 128 views per month) and people are spending an increased amount of time on these pages.

The most time, on average six and a half minutes per session, was spent on the small hive beetle page. Visitors also spent over four minutes (on average) on other pest pages such as sacbrood, wax moth, black queen cell virus, chalkbrood, giant honey bee, nosema, American foulbrood, varroa mite and European foulbrood.

The Code of Practice pages have already received over 100 views, despite only being added in mid-September 2016.

HONEYBEE MORTALITY IN THE EU

I have been supplied with this report. I have put the extract here. If anyone wants the full report let me know and I will send it to you.

EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT APPROVED: 29 March 2016 PUBLISHED: 6 April 2016

www.efsa.europa.eu/publications EFSA Supporting publication 2016:EN-883

Statistical analysis on the EPILOBEE dataset: explanatory variables related to honeybee colony mortality in EU during a 2 year survey

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)

Antoine JACQUES, Marion LAURENT, Magali RIBIERE-CHABERT, Mathilde SAUSSAC, Stéphanie BOUGEARD, Pascal HENDRIKX and Marie-Pierre CHAUZAT

Abstract

Seventeen Member States of the European Union were brought together to set up the first EU-wide active epidemiological surveillance program on honeybee colony mortality (EPILOBEE) based on representative beekeeper populations of randomly selected apiaries and colonies from 2012 to 2014. Visits were performed to estimate the mortality of bee colonies over the winter and during the season. Beekeeping practices and clinical signs of the main honeybee diseases were recorded through a questionnaire. Winter and seasonal mortalities widely varied according to the Member States and when comparing both years. The highest winter mortality was recorded in Belgium in 2012-2013 (31.73%) and the lowest in Lithuania (2.16%) in 2013-2014. In the multivariate Poisson regression models combining both years, the country was studied as a random effect. Using a hierarchical clustering of observations, the highest winter mortality rate (14.04%) was affected to a cluster including hobbyist beekeepers over 65 years of age with small size apiaries, with a production including queens and a small experience in beekeeping. The lowest winter mortality rate (8.11%) was affected to a cluster with professional beekeepers between 30 and 45 years of age, with large migrating apiaries. The management promoted the increase of the livestock. These professional beekeepers had attended a beekeeping training during the past three years, used an apiarist book, had a qualification in beekeeping, were members of a beekeeping organisation, and had an experience in beekeeping superior to five years. These apiaries did not suffer from any disease. Variables with a statistically significant effect on honeybee colony mortality during the beekeeping season were colonies clinically affected by the varroosis, the absence of beekeeping training during the past three years of the beekeeper's activity, the non-use of an apiarist book and the non-participation to a cooperative veterinary treatment. Being a pilot project, EPILOBEE was rich in lessons leading to the formulation of recommendations for future epidemiological surveys.

© ANSES, 2016

Key words: honeybee health, colony mortality, honeybee diseases, epidemiology.

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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 indicate **YES** or **NO**

- 1. Please publicise my name (as a contributor) on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter
- 2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
- 3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email
so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

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 Bank: Bendigo Bank
 BSB: 633 000
 Account No: 150 976 405



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