

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424

Monthly NEWS



October 2018

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry

www.honeybee.org.au

From: Trevor Weatherhead AM – Executive Director

ahbic@honeybee.org.au

There were thousands of bee hives placed on macadamias in Queensland and Northern New South Wales for pollination these past few months



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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 November 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

PLATINUM PLUS

PLATINUM

Capilano Honey Ltd
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
When Bee Foundation

GOLD PLUS

Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Sterling Kershaw & Co

GOLD

Australian Honey Products P/L
Aust Maunuka Honey Assoc Inc
Clarke, RK & AM
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
Weerona Apiaries

SILVER

Arnts, Rob & Steff
Amateur Beekeepers Assn
of NSW
Australian Quality Honey P/L
Bee Services
Beewise
Bowman, Phillip & Theresa
Brenton, Daryl
Bush Honey (J & J Midgley)
Cairns District Beekeeping Assoc
Casey, Cooper
Davies Apiaries
Honey Producers of Australia P/L
Jensen, Rick
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
Linklater-Steele, James
Manuka Life Pty Ltd
McDonald, Peter & Michelle
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene
Saxonbee Enterprises
Southern (Tas) Beekeepers Assoc
Zadow-IM & MJ Zadow Trust

BRONZE

Desert Breeze Honey
Dewar, RJ & MJ
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Pure Peninsula Honey

COPPER

AB's Honey
Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Bee Scientifics (Gerdt, Jody)
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping
Supplies
Bricknell, Jack
Briggs, David
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
NT Bees (Aust) Pty Ltd
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

HONEY PRODUCERS

Abbott, B & Proudford, R
Active Medicinal Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Blair, Shona
Bliss, Stephen
Costa, Daniel (Costa Honey)
Davey, Robin
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey Maryborough
Glasby, Garry
Harvey, Andrew

Hooper, Ben (Hooper Honey)
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Jones, Daniel
Klinger, Craig
Masters, Neil & Sharon
MacGibbon, Kevin
McGlew, Gary
Naicol Pty Ltd
Ruge Honey
Shaw, Robert
Targett, Stephen
Walkabout Apiaries

PRODUCER/PACKERS

Australia's Manuka P/L
Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat
Bee Happy Apiaries
Heritage Honey
Honey I'm Home
R.Stephens

HONEY PACKERS

Superbee Honey Factory

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

As I understand it the original publicity using the NMR test is now with ACCC. Enquiries have determined that the NMR test is not recognised by Australian authorities or European authorities as an official test. Instances of contradictory results have been uncovered. So in its current form the NMR test seems to be deficient.

Re the second wave of publicity re the supposed failure of 18% of Australian honey, the Food Safety and Prevention of Residues Subcommittee had a skype hook up with one of the authors of the paper. Nothing was really achieved from that conversation except a lot more questions on the testing method and disappointment that the interpretation of the results of the study were sensationalised to the detriment of the honey industry.

Unfortunately the authors are refusing to reveal the source of their samples so it is not possible to carry out an investigation to see why it is claimed these samples failed. It is claimed that some were boutique honeys but we do not know the source. This is not satisfactory as it casts a cloud over all suppliers even though they may not have been tested or even if their samples passed. We have had reports of several suppliers being adversely affected by loss of sales through no fault of their own.

I note on the Capilano website that they have received information from one of the authors to say that the Capilano samples passed. So unless the authors are prepared to list the failures, the stigma is there on all other honey. Surely the suppliers of those honeys that are claimed to have failed need to know so they can instigate a check to see if there is some failure in their operation or if the testing method is at fault.

AHBIC's media advice has been to not argue the validity of the study through the media as this has the danger of confusing the consumer and potentially damaging the reputation of Australian Honey further. Hence AHBIC continues to work through the issues raised and gather information that can lead to a positive outcome for our industry.

There is to be a meeting held in Melbourne in late November looking at the methods being used for honey testing. This meeting will have in attendance industry, through AHBIC, regulators and scientists who will discuss ways forward from the issues that have been raised. This is to see if we can have an enforceable test that the packer and the public can have confidence in. Further details will be reported on in the next newsletter

FRIENDS OF AHBIC

Thank you to those who have been a Friend of AHBIC and have made a voluntary contribution. Without these voluntary contributions AHBIC could not function.

It has come to our notice that some have said they would like to become a Friend of AHBIC and make a contribution but there was no way of being able to pay by credit card. Now you can become a Friend of AHBIC and pay by credit card. This facility has just been set up on the AHBIC website.

Of course you can still contribute via direct debit or a cheque. You can use the form at the end of this newsletter or go to the website and scroll down past the credit card option and you will see that you can download a form. Please use the form for any direct debit or cheque and either scan and email or post that form to AHBIC.

EXERCISE BORDER BRIDGE

When AHBIC received information that Exercise Border Bridge was to be held, see <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/borderbridge> a note was sent to the organisers re what would happen if there were bee hives on a property that was the subject of a quarantine standstill order.

In the foot and mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom many years ago many beekeepers lost hives because they were quarantined on infected properties and they were not allowed access to the hives for many weeks.

The answer that came back from the organisers of Exercise Border Bridge was:-

“The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council raised questions prior to Exercise Border Bridge in regards to the unintended consequences for the Bee Industry by way of quarantines imposed for Restricted Areas (RA) and Control Areas (CA). Whilst bees were not affected by the animal or plant disease in the Exercise, if a beekeeper had beehives in the RA or CA, there could be damaging consequences to the individual/industry if they could not access their hives.

Based on this enquiry we included an input into the Exercise to identify whether an RA or CA restriction would impact the movement of bee hives. It was determined during the exercise in NSW :

- *Bee hives were not subjected to any special restrictions.*
- *A permit was required to move the hives from an IP, but this is the same as any movements from IPs.*
- *The conditions for movement were more related to biosecurity implications of the truck*

Hives located within the restricted area would not be subjected to any specific movement conditions.”

So this is good news and makes liaising with these Exercises worthwhile in identifying unintended consequences that can be sorted out now and not in the heat of an outbreak.

CONGRESS PRESENTATIONS

Some attendees have asked if the presentations from the Third Australian Bee Congress were going to be made available online.

Most of the presentations can now be viewed at <http://australianbeecongress.com.au/presentations/>

LEVIES

The annual report, for 2017-18, on levies can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/ag-food/levies/documentsandreports/report-levies-stakeholders-2017-18.pdf>

The levies collected this past financial year show we had a levyable honey production of almost 20,000 tonnes. This is higher than previous years and would be classed as what we now call average.

B-QUAL

The B-QUAL Board has met and two (2) Directors have resigned. Dr. Nicholas Chantler AM and Martin Drake felt they could not commit the time that was needed to the Board. Thank you to Nicholas and Martin for your service to the Board.

Rodney Ruge has been appointed as a Director. So the full Board is:-

Wayne Fuller – Chairman

Don Muir

Paul Costa

Rodney Ruge

Peter McDonald

Trevor Weatherhead AM - Secretary

The B-QUAL newsletter has been published. If you are not in B-QUAL I would urge you to have a read of the newsletter. It can be found at <http://www.bqual.com.au/Assets/files/BQUAL%20Newsletter%20-%20SEPT%202017-2018.pdf>

VEGAN HONEY

Disappointingly the ACCC have decided not to act on our complaint.

At this point in time NSW Food Council are refusing to tell us what action they are taking re our complaint.

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.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 116202
Product name: Arysta LifeScience Chlorpyrifos 500 EC Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 500 g/L chlorpyrifos (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Arysta Lifescience Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 005 225 507
Summary of use: For control of a wide range of insect pests on fruit, vegetables, oilseeds, cotton, cereals, pasture, turf and other situations
Date of registration: 20 September 2018
Product registration no.: 86612
Label approval no.: 866

Application no.: 112318
Product name: Surefire Pymento Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 500 g/kg pymetrozine
Applicant name: PCT Holdings Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 099 023 962
Summary of use: For the control of aphids in brassica vegetables, cotton, potatoes and stone fruit
Date of registration: 25 September 2018
Product registration no.: 85119
Label approval no.: 85119/112318

Application no.: 116441
Product name: Lannate-L Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 225 g/L methomyl (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Nufarm Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 004 377 780
Summary of variation: To update the directions for use to include green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*), budworm (*Helicoverpa* spp.), and monolepta beetle in stone fruit and remove the use for peaches and nectarines
Date of variation: 24 September 2018
Product registration no.: 47336
Label approval no.: 47336/116441

HAVE YOU DONE A BOLT COURSE

As part of the Biosecurity Code of Practice beekeepers with 50 or more hives must demonstrate a minimum level of knowledge of pest and disease identification and management. This can be an approved pest and disease management course such as the competency in the Certificate III in Beekeeping or the Biosecurity for Beekeepers course provided by Plant Health Australia (PHA) through the Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT).

The BOLT course is free for all beekeepers who own 50 or more hives and is free by way of a token (a 6 digit code). This token is available from your Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) or in the case of Queensland from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. For those with less than 50 hives it is available for \$20 and for overseas beekeepers it costs \$40.

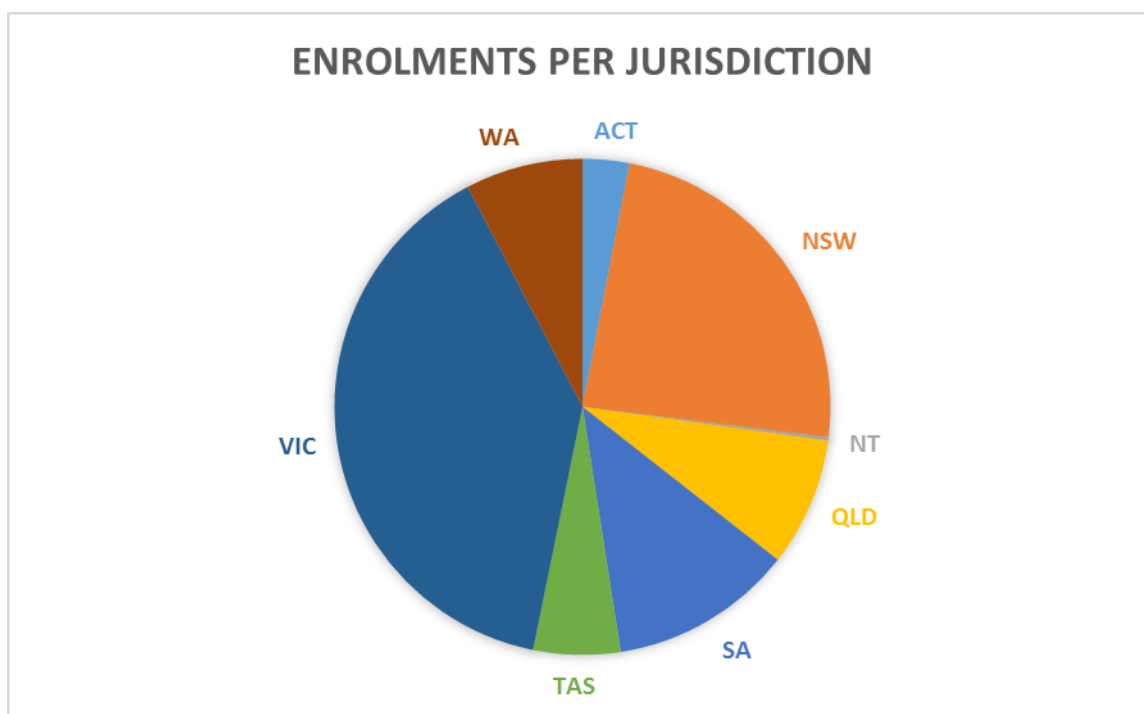
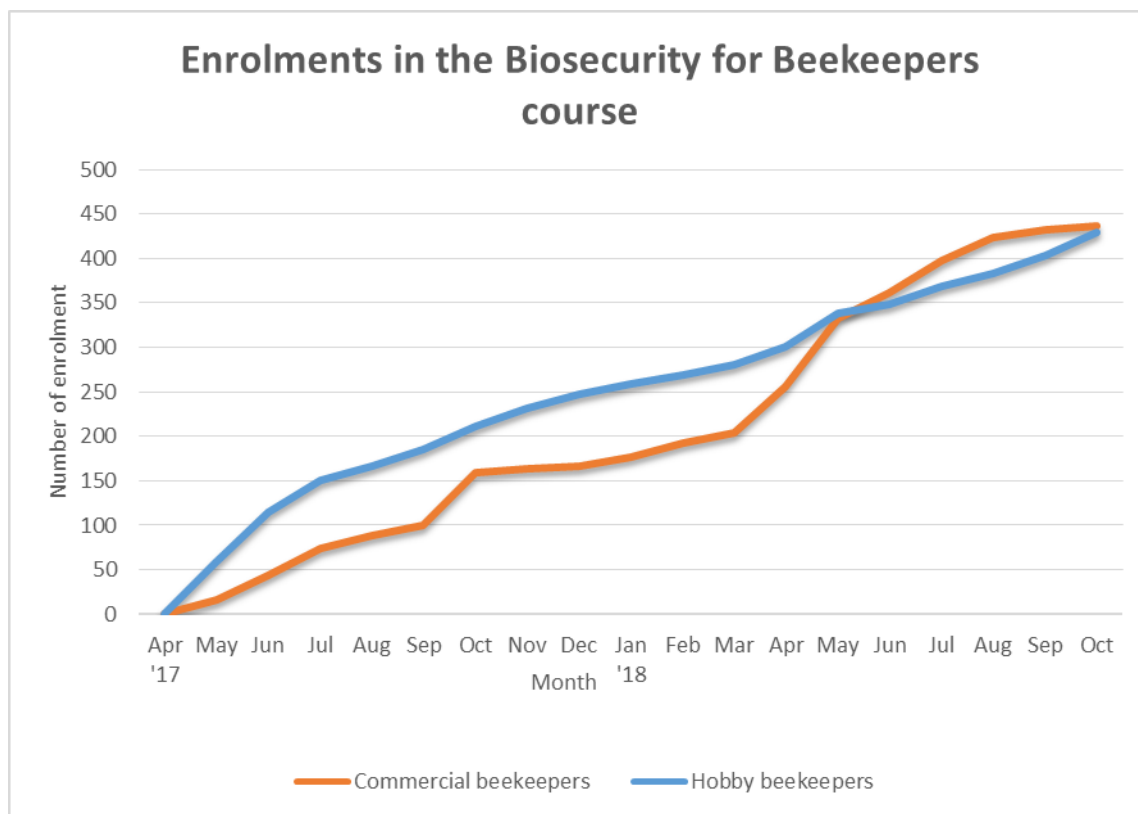
For the BOLT course there have been 977 course enrolments since its inception. Of these 768 have completed the course.

Similar numbers of commercial and hobby beekeepers have enrolled in the course and there is a completion rate of approximately 80%. Initially there was a stronger uptake from the hobby beekeepers, but since the BBOs have been working with the commercial beekeepers and providing the tokens to access the course, the numbers have levelled out.

Victoria and New South Wales show the largest enrolment number, these states also have the largest numbers of beekeepers, but there is a steady uptake of the course nationally.

So if you have 50 or more hives and do not have a qualification of the Pest and Disease Competency under the Certificate III in Beekeeping then the BOLT course is for you.

You can find details at <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au/auth/login/?returnUrl=%2F>



PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME

Below is some information received on the Pacific Labour Scheme.

I have some attachments in the email I received on 1-Employer self-assessment eligibility check list, 2-The scheme and 3-Scheme facility. If you want a copy let me know and I can forward to you.

I am writing to provide you with information about the Pacific Labour Scheme, a new Federal Government initiative which aims to assist businesses in rural and regional Australia meet their unmet demand for workers, by providing access to workers from Pacific island countries.

The Pacific Labour Scheme began on 1 July 2018. There are currently around 10 employers approved to use the Scheme and workers are already in Australia. The Scheme:

- is open to all industries, with a focus on: accommodation and food services; health care and social assistance; and **non-seasonal** agriculture, forestry and fishing industries;*
- is employer-sponsored and requires labour market testing to ensure **Australians have priority for local jobs**;*
- is designed for businesses **in rural and regional Australia** that are unable to find workers;*
- allows citizens from Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu (Pacific workers) to work in Australia for between one and three years;*
- allows Pacific workers to fill **low and semi-skilled jobs**;*
- includes an initial annual cap of up to 2,000 workers in 2018-19;*
- is supported by the Pacific Labour Facility which provides assistance to workers and employers; and*
- contains protections to safeguard against worker exploitation.*

If you would like more information about the Scheme you may be interested in the following resources:

- [frequently asked questions](#);*
- a [video testimonial from an employer](#) to help prospective employers see the benefits of the Scheme;*
- an Employer Self-Assessment Checklist (attached), which employers can use to gauge whether they can access the Scheme; and*
- fact sheets about the Scheme (attached).*

*I would be pleased if you could share this information with your members. Please don't hesitate to **contact me directly** if you would like more information or clarification.*

I look forward to an opportunity to engage with you further on how the Scheme can benefit businesses in your industry.

Kind regards

Lorenzo

*Lorenzo Strano OAM
Pacific Regional Economic Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
E / lorenzo.strano@dfat.gov.au
T / +61 411 840 644
W / www.dfat.gov.au*

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)



P.O.Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

ABN: 63 939 614 424

Phone: 07 5467 2265
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

POST: AHBIC, PO Box 4253, Raceview Qld 4305
EMAIL: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Banking
Details 

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 150 976 405
Reference: Please include your NAME as the Direct Deposit Reference

Please indicate YES or NO

1. _____ Please publicise my name in the AHBIC Newsletter (as financial supporter **and** in monetary category)
2. _____ Please publicise my name in the AHBIC Newsletter (as financial supporter in **undisclosed** monetary category)
3. _____ I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
4. _____ Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a Tax Receipt (email preferred)

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

It is gratefully appreciated