



Monthly **NEWS**

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

September 2010 Update

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(S) OR QUEENBEE SUPPLIER'S NAME APPEAR ON THIS LIST?
IF NOT, THEN ASK 'WHY NOT?' AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

AB's Honey
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association
Australian Honey Products
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bowman Family
Capilano Honey Limited
Dewar Apiaries
FCAAA
Gell's Honey
Honey Packers & Marketers Association
Hoskinson, H L & H M
Marchant, R & S
Morgan, Trevor
Nitschke, CJ

Papworth, F & E
Pollination Association of WA
Pobke, Barry
Saxonbee Enterprises
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Stevens, Graeme
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Weatherhead, T & M
True Blue Honey
Warral Apiaries Pty Ltd
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited
Wilson, Col

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UPDATE - AHBIC ACTIVITIES

The following provides a brief outline of activities undertaken in the past month by your Association.

- i. The Chairman and Executive Director attended discussions with Animal Health Australia on 7 September 2010. This meeting re-affirmed industries commitment to biosecurity and border protection. It also provided an opportunity for AHBIC to seek wider support for the Apiary Industry.
- ii. Industry continues to be concerned of the outcomes of the *Apis cerana* incursion. The first AHB nest was detected in the mast of a fishing boat in Portsmith, Cairns in May 2007. Since that time, 204 swarms or nests have been found and destroyed with the latest being confirmed on 8 September 2010. 9 detections occurred this week being 6 nests and 3 swarms. All detections were within the restricted area. 11 foraging *Apis cerana* were recorded. AHBIC has been negotiating with the State and Federal Government ways in which this any future incursions can be funded.
- iii. PAs - As we are coming around to spring production it is timely to remind honey producers and packers to ensure they do not sell Salvation Jane honey as a single floral honey. Industry has established a code of practice, which recommends that honeys for retail sale should not be blended with more than 19% Salvation Jane to minimise the content of plant alkaloids. Beekeepers who see Salvation Jane honey for retail sale should contact AHBIC or request the seller contacts AHBIC.
- iv. Industry has responded to the proposed redevelopment of Eastern Creek. A submission has been sent to AQIS and informal discussions held with DAFF to ensure the continuation of a quarantine facility for queen bee imports.
- v. On the subject of bee imports further representations have been made to the Federal Government in respect of lifting the ban on bee imports. It is to be hoped that this long drawn out saga can be finalised.
- vi. Priority areas have been listed for AQIS in respect of negotiating export arrangements in order to facilitate trade. This is in addition to efforts being made to open the New Zealand and Korean markets.
- vii. The next AHBIC Executive Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 October 2010 in Canberra. Trade, biosecurity, residues and access to public lands will all be considered.
- viii. Pollination Australia Workshop - Pollination industry leaders, researchers and international experts gathered in Canberra to identify the short and long-term research and development projects and opportunities that could tackle the potential industry threat.

Quarantine and biosecurity measures remain obvious and vital as the first line of defence in keeping Varroa out of Australia. The pest has already wreaked havoc on our closest neighbours after becoming established in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Two media releases on the Pollination Program are included in this edition.

The Pollination Program is a jointly funded partnership with the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The Pollination Program is managed by RIRDC and aims to secure the pollination of Australia's horticultural and agricultural crops into the future on a sustainable and profitable basis. Research and development in this program is primarily to raise awareness to protect pollination in Australia.

RIRDC funds for the program are provided by the Honeybee Program, with industry levies matched by funds provided by the Australian Government. Funding from HAL for the program is from the apple and pear, almond, avocado, cherry, vegetable and summerfruit levies and voluntary contributions from the dried prune and melon industries, with matched funds from the Australian Government.

- ix. Review of Varroa Destructor response. – AHBIC representatives are attending a series of workshops organised by DAFF to prepare industry and our response to Varroa should it arrive in Australia. This planning exercise is extremely important and will assist in raising awareness as well as making preparations for responding to any potential incursion.
- x. Congratulations to Trevor Weatherhead for reaching the semi-finals of the Australia's Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award.

RESPONSE TO ASIAN HONEYBEES

DAFF Communiqué - 6 September 2010

The Asian Honeybee National Management Group (NMG) met on 3 September 2010 to consider the current program to contain and eradicate the Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*) in Queensland: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_13530.htm

The first Asian honeybee nest was detected in the mast of a fishing boat in Portsmith, Cairns in May 2007. Since that time, 188 swarms or nests have been found and destroyed.

Most of the Asian honeybee detections have been found in the city and port areas of Cairns, immediately to the south of Cairns including Mareeba and Lake Eacham and in the Gordonvale and Aloomba districts. The strain of Asian honeybees found in the Cairns region is the Java strain, which is common in Asia, particularly in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The Asian honeybee is an invasive species which adversely impacts populations of European honeybees by competing for floral resources, robbing managed hives and transmitting disease. It can become a pest in urban areas through establishing nests in houses and by its aggressive stinging behaviour.

The Asian honeybee is slightly smaller than the European honeybee and its abdomen has more distinctive brown and yellow stripes. Unlike the European Honeybee, Asian honeybees do not adapt to domestication and are not suitable for commercial honey production or commercial pollination services.

Asian honeybees are a natural host for Varroa mite – a parasite that attacks developing bee larvae or adult bees. Laboratory tests on the bees and comb from nests indicates that none of the nests destroyed to date carry any exotic Varroa, Tropilaelaps or tracheal mites.

Information and reports from the public have been vital in locating swarms and nest sites. Anyone in the north of Queensland who sees a swarm of bees or foraging bees that resemble Asian Honeybees should report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Activities to eradicate Asian honeybees in the Cairns region are jointly funded by the Australian Government, State and Territory Governments and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) on behalf of their members. Other industries reliant on bees and bee pollination services have been approached at peak representative level to assess whether they would be beneficiaries if the Asian honeybees were eradicated and so may wish to contribute resources. No industry body other than AHBIC has agreed.

The NMG is comprised of the chief executive officers of the national and state/territory departments of agriculture and primary industries across Australia, representatives of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and Plant Health Australia. The group is chaired by the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dr Conall O'Connell.

Further advice on Asian honeybees and actions to suppress the pest can be found on Biosecurity Queensland's website: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_13530.htm

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 78– 5 September, 2010

Finds, all within the RA, for the past fortnight up to Friday 3 September are:

IP179 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP180 was a nest in a letter box
IP181 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP182 was a nest at Yorkeys Knob
IP183 was a nest at Edmonton
IP184 was a nest at Edmonton
IP185 was a nest at Edmonton
IP186 was a nest at Mooroolbool
IP187 was a swarm at Aloomba
IP188 was a nest at Cairns North
IP189 was a nest at Edmonton
IP190 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP191 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP192 was a swarm at Gordonvale
IP193 was a nest at Edmonton
IP194 was a nest at Portsmith
IP195 was a nest at Edmonton
IP196 was a nest at Kuranda

IP197 was a swarm at East Trinity

There are still some areas within the RA where foraging bees are being tracked down.

I often talk about how good the surveillance crews are at finding the nests once they find foraging Asian bees. Figures prepared by the people in Cairns show that so far in 2010, 80% of the nests found have been as a result of beelining.

IP182, which was a nest found at Yorkeys Knob, was actually in a budgerigar nesting box and the bees had killed a young bird in the nest. So there are no bounds when it comes to where the cerana will set up nest. It can be seen that we again have another nest in a letterbox. So those figures that Terry Ryan did in his report on the costs to the community are coming to fruition.

So for the above reasons and they are only part of the overall picture, it is imperative that this eradication program does succeed.

Advice 79– 19 September 2010

Finds, all within the RA, for the past fortnight up to Friday 17 September are:

IP198 was a nest at Yarrabah
IP199 was a swarm at Kamerunga
IP200 was a nest at Mt. Peter
IP201 was a nest at Mt. Peter
IP202 was a nest at Manoora
IP203 was a swarm at Gordonvale
IP204 was a nest at Portsmith
IP205 was a nest at Mt. Sheridan
IP206 was a nest at the Cairns City Centre
IP207 was a nest at Smithfield
IP208 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP209 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP210 was a nest at Green Hill
IP211 was a nest at Goldsborough
IP212 was a nest at Mirriwinni
IP213 was a nest at Mt. Sheridan
IP214 was a nest at Westcourt
IP215 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP216 was a nest on the Esplanade in Cairns

There are still some areas within the RA where foraging bees are being tracked down.

Industry has indicated that it is not able to pay the full amount due under the cost sharing agreement. As there will now be a shortfall in funding for the eradication program, certain aspects of the program are being reviewed to see where savings can be made.

Trevor Weatherhead

A NATIONAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR HONEYBEES AND POLLINATION SECURITY

As many of you will know, a bid for a Cooperative Research Centre, focused on Honeybees and Pollination Security is under discussion nationally. RIRDC has commissioned Pestat Pty Ltd to assess interest in a CRC as a vehicle for national R&D and education. While the bid team members have contacted many stakeholders, it has not reached all interested parties and is anxious to get the maximum possible input.

A scoping paper and newsletter can be found on Pestat's website, along with a brief questionnaire in which we seek views on research priorities. The web site is: <http://www.pestat.com.au>

We are interested in all views and the bid team leader, Chris Buller, can be contacted directly at: chris.buller@pestat.com.au.

NEW REPORT INTO THE MARKETING OF AUSTRALIAN HONEY

14 September 2010

With less of us eating breakfast in our kitchens but instead eating it on the go in our cars or on the way to work, what are the implications for traditional breakfast foods like honey?

This is one of the issues addressed in a new report released today by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) which analyses Australia's honey industry from the perspective of identifying potential improvements to its marketing.

RIRDC Senior Research Manager, Dr Dave Alden, said the report is designed to help Australia's honey industry understand some of the dynamics driving supply chain pressures in the industry.

"This report identifies 26 separate issues and pressures affecting the honey industry, and looks at the implications that they have on honey marketing," Dr Alden said.

"For example, the study finds that honey, a traditional breakfast spread, is now competing with 'mobile breakfast products' which are targeted at people who enjoy breakfast on the go. Additionally, honey competes with breakfast spreads which enjoy stronger marketing support.

"This growing competition raises new challenges for the honey industry, with the report predicting its growth is more likely to come from other honey uses, such as its role as a sweetener in other foods and beverages."

Dr Alden said the report also looks at how honey could potentially capitalise on honey's health benefits, such as its low Glycaemic Index (GI).

"The lower a food's GI rating; the slower people absorb and digest it, which means a more gradual and healthier infusion of sugars into their bloodstream. GI is also acknowledged as a natural dietary aid which helps keep 'hunger pains' away for longer," he said.

With 7,800 tonnes of Australian honey being exported in 2009, the report also examines the factors influencing the global honey market, and potential new export opportunities for Australian producers.

“The study identifies a number of market opportunities the Australian honey industry could potentially capitalise upon,” Dr Alden said.

“At the top of the list is Europe, particularly Ireland and the UK, where there is known demand for honey harvested from native Australian flora.”

A study of existing and prospective markets and marketing activities for Australian honey is available on the RIRDC website www.rirdc.gov.au

HONEYBEE RESEARCH WORKSHOP EXPLORES OPTIONS

18 August 2010

Saving Australia’s honeybee industry from a reliance on chemicals to deal with a pest that could devastate our agricultural and horticultural crops is the aim of a workshop being held this week in Canberra.

Australia is currently free of Varroa mite but it is generally accepted that it will eventually reach our shores. The pest has already wreaked havoc on our closest neighbours after becoming established in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Pollination industry leaders, researchers and international experts are this week exploring options which will minimise and replace the need for chemicals for the management of any Varroa mite incursion.

Gerald Martin, Chairman of the Pollination R&D Advisory Committee, says the meeting is about the industry coming together to discuss non-chemical control measures and to help focus R&D options for Varroa control.

“We have a responsibility to be prepared for an outbreak. This involves exploring all the alternative responses available at our disposal including learning from the overseas example where chemicals were found to be not the only way to control this pest,” said Mr Martin.

“Pollination services to Australian horticulture and agriculture were valued at \$1.7 billion dollars annually for the 35 most important honeybee dependent crops,” said Mr Martin.

“There is a challenge to provide the industry with real options in Varroa mite control – we have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of our friends in the Canada and New Zealand and to design an integrated pest management program now,” he said.

“New Zealand has had Varroa mite for less than a decade and is already seeing signs of chemical resistance. We would like to have plans in place to manage minimal chemical use as well as investing in research into non-chemical options to avoid this situation,” Mr Martin added.

The Research and Key Industry Leaders Workshops will be held on 19-20 August at the Australian National University.

Non-chemical options to be discussed include breeding for resistance to Varroa, drone brood control, temperature control, organic acids, screen bottom boards and Varroa sensitive hygienic behaviour. The meetings will also cover a review of chemical options for management of an initial incursion within Australia as well as learn from the best international practices on chemical control and management.

The key Industry Leaders Workshop will continue the dialogue and explore with invited industry leaders what research is needed to prepare for a Varroa mite incursion, as well as how to live with Varroa in Australia. Following the workshop, key messages from the workshop will be spread throughout commercial and non-commercial beekeepers in Australia.

PREPARE, PLAN AND EVALUATE: THE KEY TO VARROA MANAGEMENT

3 September 2010

Prepare, plan and experiment while we have the chance were the messages from a workshop held recently to review both chemical and non-chemical options for the management of Varroa mite, the deadly pest of the honeybee.

Pollination industry leaders, researchers and international experts gathered in Canberra to identify the short and long-term research and development projects and opportunities that could tackle the potential industry threat.

The workshop heard Australia is in a unique position being currently free of Varroa mite, but with a high likelihood that it eventually reaches our shores, we must plan and prepare.

Gerald Martin, Chairman of the Pollination R&D Advisory Committee attended the workshop, which he said looked at a number of options for how industry might prepare for any incursion of Varroa.

“It was clear that we are looking at a combination of options to be in place as we plan and prepare for the pest reaching our shores.

“These options include experimenting with breeding for Varroa resistance, further evaluation of both chemical and not chemical options, having an Integrated Pest Management strategy as well as educating beekeepers to be vigilant in detecting and managing Varroa,” Mr Martin said.

Denis Anderson from the CSIRO outlined a number of R & D activities that could be considered in preparation for the management of Varroa, including additional strategies aimed at preventing the mites entering Australia, improved hive management methods, the development of a pathogen to kill Varroa mites, breeding bees for resistance to Varroa and turning off whatever signal from bees triggers Varroa to reproduce.

Quarantine and biosecurity measures remain obvious and vital as the first line of defence in keeping Varroa out of Australia. The pest has already wreaked havoc on our closest neighbours after becoming established in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

At the workshop, one international experience of the management of Varroa was provided by Dr Mark Goodwin, Plant and Food Research NZ, who said that in the absence of any chemical controls a beekeeper in NZ could expect to lose 95% of their hives within a year if Varroa took hold in an apiary.

Dr Goodwin said chemical options for control of the pest needed to be constantly reviewed as Varroa developed a degree of resistance to each one. However organic control options, he said, were limited and ‘highly variable’ in their effectiveness and mainly relied on physical intervention, which proved very costly. In NZ, the industry had made a move towards using specialist synthetic chemicals on rotation, which he said could be considered in Australia.

Mr Martin said any possible Varroa mite incursion would be an economic issue for Australia’s honey and pollination industries and would severely impact on our \$30 billion horticulture and agriculture sector.

“We will need more managed bees for pollination services. This is outlined in *Pollination Aware*, a report recently released that quantifies the likely demand for paid pollination services should anything untoward happen to Australia’s European honeybee populations, such as the arrival of Varroa.

“Beekeepers are really the key. The value of paid pollination services cannot be underestimated and if we can improve beekeeper profitability this will go a long way to ensuring they have the resources to effectively control Varroa.

“Growers and beekeepers need to work together now to understand and plan the future pollination requirements of growers so all are prepared should Varroa arrive in Australia,” Mr Martin said.

SEMI-FINALISTS RAISE BIOSECURITY BAR IN NATIONAL AWARDS

Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA), through their joint Farm Biosecurity program, are proud to announce the semi-finalists for their Australian Biosecurity Farmer of the Year award.

Many excellent nominations were received in both categories of plant and livestock producers, and the semi-finalists are as follows:

- Angus Woods of Woods Pastoral, Goondiwindi, QLD
- Douglas Streeter of DI & JW Streeter, Avoca, VIC
- Kerwee Lot Feeders of Berewick, Jondaryan, QLD
- Lachlan Dobson of Kimberly Produce, Kununurra, WA
- Lenhard Steve Brajkovich of Brajkovich and Sons, Middle Swan, WA
- Michael Blake of Ballyglunin Park, Hamilton, VIC
- Peter & Sandra Young of Birdwood Nursery, Woombye, QLD
- Rod Birch of Catalina Farms, Coorow, WA
- Terry Hayes of Hillwood, Middle Arm, NSW
- Trevor Weatherhead of WeatherBee Apiaries, Peak Crossing, QLD

“Each of the semi-finalists displayed a range inspiring achievements as well as a comprehensive understanding of the importance of maintaining good biosecurity. The judging panel was

impressed by the passion and commitment demonstrated in all the nominations received,” said Dr Sharyn Taylor, PHA Program Manager of Biosecurity Planning and Implementation and Judge of the 2010 Australian Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award.

Fellow judge, Duncan Rowland from Animal Health Australia, agreed, “We were thoroughly impressed with the variety and high standard of the nominations we received. It’s an opportunity to recognise some of Australia’s most innovative and determined producers. They set the standard for the rest of the country and help to reinforce the biosecurity message.”

Six finalists, the top three in the plant category and the top three in the livestock category, will attend the gala dinner at Sydney’s Westin Hotel on Tuesday 21 September as part of Kondinin Group and ABC Rural’s Australian Farmer of the Year Awards. The winner for each category will be announced at the event. For further information, visit <http://www2.kondinin.com.au/awards>

The Farm Biosecurity Initiative

The Farm Biosecurity campaign, a joint program managed by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA), is a national education and engagement campaign which aims to help producers reduce the risk of diseases, pests and weeds. It provides information about farm biosecurity and preventing emergency animal disease and exotic plant pests, encouraging producers to identify risks to their livestock, crops and plant products and minimise those risks through good practices. Producers are encouraged to check their properties regularly and if they see anything unusual to call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Farm Biosecurity has the strong commitment of AHA and PHA members, who are instrumental in the program's implementation and who all contribute to the initiative.

For further information, visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

Animal Health Australia

AHA is an innovative partnership involving the Australian Government, state and territory governments, major livestock industries and other stakeholders. We work with our members and stakeholders to strengthen Australia’s national animal health system and maximise confidence in the safety and quality of Australia’s livestock products in domestic and overseas markets.

For further information, visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au or call (02) 6232 5522.

Plant Health Australia

PHA is the lead national coordinating body for plant health in Australia. We are a not-for-profit organisation that works in partnership with industry, governments, researchers and others to facilitate improvements in policy, practice and performance of Australia’s plant biosecurity system and to build capability to respond to plant pest emergencies.

Our efforts enhance Australia’s plant health status, assist trade, safeguard the livelihood of producers and support the sustainability and profitability of our plant industries and the communities that rely upon them.

For further information, visit www.phau.com.au or call (02) 6215 7700.

NEW RURAL INDUSTRIES AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

28-30 November 2010 - Jupiters, Gold Coast

New Rural Industries Australia (NRIA) will be hosting its inaugural conference and expo to highlight the products and diversity of new and emerging rural industries across Australia. This event aims to bring about more collaboration between the new rural industries and will provide an excellent opportunity for industry interaction and exchange of information. It will be a chance to hear from “hands on” producers as well as recognised authorities from leading research organisations both in Australia and overseas.

The expo will feature industry displays and booths, a chance to meet participants from a huge range of new and emerging industries, sample their produce and discuss what makes them so passionate about their industry.

The exposition, being held in conjunction with the conference, will be open to all allied industries, government and research agencies, and also to any new rural industries to showcase their products.

A field trip to nearby rural industries will be held on Wednesday 1 December.

Conference program

Topics to be covered include:

- new crop and livestock opportunities
- new rural industries for future climates
- marketing and trade access
- carbon and biodiversity farming
- financing new and emerging industries

Call for papers

Abstracts for both oral and posters are invited from management professionals, researchers and academics, industry and government bodies. Please follow the website link below for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities

There are a number of options to be associated with the conference. These include a range of sponsorships, with varying degrees of exposure to delegates and an expo/trade show with face to face interaction with all the delegates. Please see the attached sponsorship document for more information.

Registration

Early bird registration is \$350 (plus GST) and closes at the end of September. Registration for the conference includes 6 months membership of NRIA.

To register please visit the website www.nria2010.com.au or call ASN Events on (03) 5983 2400

Conference website: For the full conference program and other information on the conference and expo please visit www.nria2010.com.au

NRIA website: If you would like to know more about New Rural Industries Australia please visit our website at www.nria.org.au

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CHARGES REVEALED IN INTERNATIONAL 'HONEY LAUNDERING' CONSPIRACY

NewsCore - 2 September 2010

THE Federal Government announced charges today against a ring of foreign corporations and executives who conspired to bring antibiotic-laden Chinese honey illegally into the US, in an attempt to avoid paying millions in fees.

A federal grand jury in Chicago indicted top executives of German food conglomerate Alfred L Wolff GmbH, and several of its affiliated companies for allegedly importing more than \$US40 million in Chinese honey, but saying it originated elsewhere in order to avoid paying duties of nearly \$US80 million that were levied on Chinese honey.

The indictment further alleges the honey contained antibiotics not approved for use in honey production and that several people involved in the conspiracy knew it was tainted.

The Government named 15 individual and six corporations as defendants in the 44-count indictment. They are all accused of bringing more than 600 shipments of mislabelled Chinese honey, which contained broad-spectrum antibiotics, into the US between 2002 and 2008. For much of that time, the US Department of Commerce had imposed antidumping duties on Chinese honey of up to 221 percent and prohibited the import of honey that was produced using the antibiotic chloramphenicol.

“Not only was the Government defrauded from collecting substantial antidumping duties, but domestic honey producers and other importers were denied a fair market, according to the indictment, and the defendants distributed adulterated honey that never should have reached the US marketplace,” said US Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, Patrick J Fitzgerald.

The defendants face charges of conspiracy, smuggling, falsifying federal documents and violating federal food safety laws. The Government hopes to collect the alleged unpaid duties, which total more than \$US78 million, as well as the declared value of the alleged illicit honey.

2011 GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ENTOMOLOGY – THAILAND

March 5-9, 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand Website: www.entomology2011.com

The main objective of the Global Conference on Entomology is to showcase advances in entomological research and development in the insect world. The skills and knowledge of entomologists are needed worldwide helping farmers to produce crops and livestock more

efficiently through sound pest management strategies, fighting to save endangered species and fragile ecosystems, and preventing insects from spreading agents that cause serious diseases.

Insects provide a readily accessible resource for you to use in developing a better scientific understanding of the world around you. For more than 350 million years, insects have evolved and adapted to become the creatures we know today. Through the millennia, insects have become an essential part of every terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem. They are the most numerous and diverse form of life on Earth. About one million species are known, and it is estimated that 10 million are undiscovered.

The study of insects helps us increase the bounty of the land and preserve its natural beauty. It also helps us understand how to protect lives and property from harmful insects. Food shortages still exist in many parts of the world. About 40 percent of the world's food production is lost to insect pests each year. Sound entomological research and extension programs are at the forefront of the sciences involving these important problems. Although reducing vast insect-caused losses will not automatically solve the hunger problems - other economic and cultural factors are important too - entomology is a central part of the solution.

Vast areas of the world are dominated by insects that transmit parasites that cause yellow fever, river blindness, Chagas disease, and sleeping sickness. Malaria, plague, and tick-borne fevers are diseases of worldwide importance, and entomologists lead the way in research to combat these ailments. Entomologists are seeking new, less expensive ways to prevent these losses.

The scheduled conference organized by the Century Foundation, Bangalore in association with other organizations will provide a scientific platform to exchange the information on the recent advances in entomological research and to bring together the International scientific community involved in the study of insects.

Topics of the Conference

1. Ecology
2. Nature protection, landscape management, insect conservation - in a changing environment
3. Agricultural entomology
4. Genetically modified organisms
5. Forest entomology
6. Systematics, taxonomy and zoo-geography
7. Medical and veterinary entomology
8. Insect genetics (genomics, developmental genetics, population genetics, etc.)
9. Neurobiology and toxicology
10. Physiology and behaviour
12. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
13. Parasitic Mites: Regional and world-wide issues
14. Advances in Apiculture
15. Cultural entomology
16. Sensory ecology (Pheromones)
17. Soil entomology
18. Drosophila genetics
19. Applied Research in Wolbachia

I request you to kindly forward this information to the institutes/individuals engaged in entomological research. If any questions please feel free to contact me.

Dr V Sivaram, President - GCE 2011, Thailand

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CHANGE OF DATE

The New South Wales Apiarists' Association has advised that they have had to change the date of their 2011 AGM. It will now be held in Dubbo on Thursday 19 & Friday 20 May 2011.

2011 CONFERENCE DATES

FCAAA	New South Wales Apiarists' Association	19 & 20 May 2011
	Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association	3 & 4 June 2011
	Victorian Apiarists' Association	8 & 9 June 2011
	WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	17 June 2011
	Queensland Beekeepers' Association	30 June & 1 July 2011
	South Australian Apiarists' Association	7 July 2011

Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	6 Jul 2011
Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association	End of May
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July 2011
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	6 July 2011

SALVATION JANE

As we are coming around to spring production it is timely to remind honey producers and packers to ensure they do not sell Salvation Jane honey as a single floral honey. Industry has established a code of practice, which recommends that honeys for retail sale should not be blended with more than 19% Salvation Jane to minimise the content of plant alkaloids. Beekeepers who see Salvation Jane honey for retail sale should contact AHBIC or request the seller contacts AHBIC.

SPRING CROP & STOCK REPORT



NEW SOUTH WALES

Good rain has fallen over most of the State. Good soil moisture this time of the year should ensure crops such as Faba Beans, Canola and Paterson's Curse and give good conditions for bees during spring.

The cool conditions during June put bees in most regions into limbo. A lot of hives were moved from the Channel country of the West. A big crop of honey from the Yapunyah looks to have dissipated, although good bees that are left should gather some honey. Other than Canola and Curse there doesn't seem to be many prospects for spring honey flows. Grey Ironbark, Red Gum and Mahogany could flower well during the late spring/summer. Overall, a big honey production is not expected in New South Wales this season.

Honey stocks are quickly diminishing both at beekeeper level and packer level. Supply will be 'hand to mouth' for 2-3 months which should firm up prices as packers compete for limited supplies.

Bill Weiss

QUEENSLAND

Yapunyah has started to yield, sadly after the majority of hives have been moved to pollination. There are many hives pollinating Macadamia Nuts and the expected honeyflow from this source is yet to be seen. Swarming is a problem.

Queensland beekeepers have been attracted south to Canola and the potential Salvation Jane Crop. Prospects for eucalypts in Queensland are not good up to December. Brush Box may well be on this year, low country Brush Box has tipped and budded. Grey Ironbark is disappointing.

Bimble Box has started flowering in the far west; again most hives have been moved away. Interest will also be in the NSW quick budders such as Bloodwood and Coolibah.

Not a lot of honey will be produced prior to Xmas in Queensland, as such it is hoped that the NSW crop will be far better.

Hives that are carrying brood are having swarming troubles.

There is little honey in beekeepers hands but that is expected to change over the coming months.
Bill Winner

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In the Riverland, almonds are finished and all bees are leaving the area – grasshopper spraying being a leading factor. It looks as though there will be no bees on citrus this year.

Most bees in the Central and Northern areas will be moving to Canola (where they can get into the wet paddocks).

In the South East of the State beekeepers are heading onto Canola and Stoney Mallee which are both looking good.

Most beekeepers will be hoping for 'Jane until Christmas as we have had excellent rains in many areas.

Generally throughout the State, very few trees are well-budded. Blue Gum looked good but has flowered early and is mainly over.

Quite a few bees around the State have been affected with varying degrees of Nosema. Some apiaries are down to 2-3 frames of bees - it will take a long while to re-build these hives.

Wendy Thiele

TASMANIA

No change from last month re stocks. Local market is quite good, the Australian Dollar too high for exports.

Snow and rain throughout the State and frosts wide spread. Generally speaking the bees are in good condition but are hungry for pollen.

Weather inclement as Wattle, Gorse etc begins to flower.

Ian Stephens

VICTORIA

August weather has remained cool with substantial falls of rain throughout the month. The winter rains have resulted in minor flood warnings for many of our river systems, and there are substantial flows of water into many of our dams that have been at very low levels over recent years.

Early September saw heavy rains and extensive flooding of most of our rivers and creeks, including the Murray River.

The locust spraying problem and the risk to bees and bee hives is not going away. The extensive media coverage of the last few weeks relating to the risk to our industry has alerted everyone involved to our problem. Although this will not lessen the proposed spraying problem, many people will become involved in attempting to warn individual beekeepers.

In recent years beekeepers, generally have relied on Canola in the cropping areas of Northern and North Western Victoria. This has the greatest infestation of locust egg beds. Government, media, farmers and the general public are now more aware that killing locusts with insecticides can create side issues that need to be taken into account.

Knowledge of a few 'safer' areas is emerging as the locust egg beds are being more closely ascertained. North Eastern Victoria, where Hill Gum (*Euc. tereticornis*) is well budded for spring flowering is one possibility. Also the South Eastern Riverina of NSW has very few reported

locust egg beds, good Canola crops and a good strike on Paterson's Curse in places where the cropping is not extensive.

Livestock Health & Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board) personnel are very helpful in keeping people informed. Any beekeepers working in Southern NSW need to keep these people informed of our movements. Other safer areas are in Gippsland, though with very little for spring prospects for possible honey production. Yellow Stringy Bark (*Euc. meullerana*) has reasonable budding for November/December flowering.

Southern and South Western Victoria, where there are substantial Canola crops, but cold, wet weather can be a problem into October.

Some Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxylon*) is also still flowering in the South West and could yield some honey if the weather warms up.

Other than updating Readers on how best to avoid the locust spraying programme, there is very little new information on prospects since last month.

Almond flowering has been late starting and was slow to come into flower, so bees were a little later in being moved out of the orchards.

River Red Gum (*Euc. camaldulensis*) is well budded for December/January flowering through Southern Victoria on creeks, rivers and the Western Plains.

Flooding could be an issue for some areas.

Odd River Red Gum trees are showing some infection of Gall in the buds. There has also been infection of Gall in the buds of Golden Wattle last season and this season. I don't know enough about Gall infection to say whether it is the same insect, but it could be fairly safe to assume that it is.

Some Yellow Box (*Euc. melliodora*) growing in open country has flowered very early and will be finished before the weather is warm enough to yield nectar. Yellow Box in the forests is holding bud well and should hold until November/December.

The big issue is to get through the next 2 to 3 months, breed bees, avoid having these bees poisoned and, hopefully produce a little spring honey.

Spring honey production is now very questionable with the major prospect - Canola - being under threat of locusts, and now suffering extensive water-logging in Southern Victoria.

Bob McDonald

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Winter crops on the coast were minimal but breeding conditions have been good.

Spring crops are looking good with coastal heath and Dryandra producing. Curse in Western areas is looking good and many beekeepers are getting a crop off canola. Spring White Gum and Jarrah are budded and should produce an average crop later.

Rod Pavy