

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424

Monthly NEWS



April 2018

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry

www.honeybee.org.au

From: Trevor Weatherhead AM – Executive Director

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Lunch break for those working together on the new AHBIC Strategic Plan



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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 April 2017

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

A number of Honey Producers have generously given a voluntary contribution but wish to remain anonymous

HONEY PRODUCERS

Abbott, B & Proudford, R
Active Medicinal Honey
Anderson, Cedar
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
(on behalf of some honey producers)
Bees Neez Apiaries
Blair, Shona
Bliss, Stephen
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Davey, Robin
Davies Apiaries
Dewar, Robert & Melissa
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey Maryborough
Glasby, Garry
Grizzly Bear Apiaries
Hooper, Ben (Hooper Honey)
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Jones, Bryn

HONEY PRODUCERS

Jones, Daniel
Kennett, Joshua
Klinger, Craig
Le Feuvre, Danny
Lukas, Barbara
MacGibbon, Kevin
Masters, Neil & Sharon
McDonald, Peter & Michelle
McDonald, Robert
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
NT Bees (Aust)
Plum, Len & Susan
Rohrlach, T & A
Ruge Honey
Saxonbee Enterprises
Shaw, Robert
Stokes, Peter
Valkenburg Apiaries
Walkabout Apiaries
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Zadow, Ian & Mel

PRODUCER/PACKERS

Australia's Manuka P/L
Bee Happy Apiaries
Blue Hills Honey
Bourke, Lindsay
Clifford, David
Heritage Honey
Honeyworks Pty Ltd
R.Stephens
The House of Honey

HONEY PACKERS

AB's Honey
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
Capilano Honey Ltd
Gustare Honey Australia Pty Ltd
Honeylife Australia
Superbee Honey Factory

QUEEN BEE BREEDERS

RL Dewar - Bee Build
Gerdts, Jody

BEEKEEPING GROUPS

Amateur Beekeepers Asn of NSW Inc
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Bendigo Regional Beekeepers Inc
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Northside Beekeepers Assoc Inc

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Ecrotek
Flow hive
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies
Quality Beekeeping Supplies
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies
Schutz Australia Pty Ltd

All Voluntary Contributions and Support to AHBIC are Gratefully Received – Thank You

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN BEE CONGRESS

Registrations continue to come in for the Congress. There is still plenty of time for you to register if you have not done so already. Australian and international speakers will be covering a wide range of interesting topics. Speakers' Biographies and the Program can be seen at www.australianbeecongress.com.au

We need entries for the Honey Show. If you are a delegate you should be able to have at least one entry of good honey that you have put aside to enter. I know many work with beeswax and there are classes for this. Check out the schedule on the website.

For all details go to www.australianbeecongress.com.au

AHBIC AGM

The AHBIC AGM will be held on Sunday 1 July, 2018 at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast. This will follow the Third Australian Bee Congress which will be held on the previous three (3) days.

This year there are three (3) positions which will become vacant. The Chairperson and two (2) Executive positions.

For the Chairperson the nomination needs to be received 28 days prior to the AGM i.e. 3 June 2018. The nomination must be signed by one voting delegate and accompanied by the consent of the nominee. If no nomination is received then nominations will be received from the floor at the AGM. For full details see Section 5 of the AHBIC constitution which is on the AHBIC website.

The two (2) Executive members stepping down are Ian Zadow and Phillip McHugh. Ian is not eligible to stand again as he has completed six (6) continuous years on the Executive. Phillip McHugh is eligible to stand again.

At the AGM observers will be able to attend but there will be a fee to cover catering costs. A Registration Form for an observer to fill out will be in the next newsletter.

1 DOWN, 2 TO GO

In the last newsletter I said that we needed three (3) years for proof of freedom for the *Varroa jacobsoni* eradication program. Actually it is 30 months so it will come around 6 months earlier than I said, if all goes well.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING

The time for the two year transition period for the Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL) ends on 30 June 2018. So as from 1 July 2018 the new labelling requirements re CoOL will be law.

Some have suggested that the transition periods should be extended but the Government has said that this will not be the case.

So make sure all your labels are ready and compliant for the new CoOL when it becomes law on 1 July, 2018.

VEGAN HONEY

AHBIC's attention has been drawn to a product available in Australia labelled as vegan honey. As honey is a prescribed name under the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand standards, this product does not comply with the definition of honey. AHBIC has lodged a complaint re this product.

Vegans do not eat honey as they say it comes from or is produced by animals. I wonder how they get on with food such as pumpkins, watermelons, apples and all those other foods out there that our honey bees pollinate directly or provide pollination for the seed production such as carrots and onions. Do they not eat these because bees have played a part in their production?

I note from a tweet on the ABC Rural website that France has outlawed the use of dairy and meat related words when describing products which are neither - phrases such as vegan sausages, tofu steaks, vegan cheese, meatless bacon - even soy milk and all those flavoured waters pretending to be milk – BANNED.

SUGAR SHAKE MONTH

No it is not a new drink. It was a joint effort by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, New South Wales Apiarists Association and Amateur Beekeepers Association of New South Wales to highlight the awareness of exotic mites and have beekeepers test for these.

Did you take part? See details at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/sugar-shake-month>

A NEED TO CHECK YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

This is a note from Shara Davies to bring to beekeepers attention some problems with insurance following the untimely death of her husband Stephen. We thank Shara for sharing this with us.

*Also I have a personal issue in regards to insurance for beekeepers, I would like to bring to the attention of all beekeepers as I do not wish any of them to go through what my family has just gone through. A very serious issue has come to light following Stephens death, about beekeepers having a rural farm policy and really hope I can stop any other Beekeepers and their families from being in the same situation. Every year we would sit down and go through our policy with our broker and they were fully aware of what our business was and each year we thought we were well protected with our insurances and even our broker thought so. Unfortunately this is not the case. Each year the insurance company makes changes to their policies and you need to analyse each and every change and sub clause. The main clause beekeeper need to insure that is in their policy's is the word **livestock** if this word is not in your policy please ring your insurance company and get it added.*

Apart from taking nearly three months to assess the truck and trailer. It turns out that the in transit part of our policy does not cover bees, pallets, straps, fridges and loss of product as the word livestock is not mentioned in our policy. The transit part of the policy is my major concern for all beekeepers as this is the core part of our businesses and you may not be covered at all. This unfortunately became my reality and the even scarier bit is to discover that we haven't been covered for years, I sincerely do not want to see it happen to anyone else in our industry. All vehicle policies need to have a detailed list of what you have on them from spotlights, bull bar, crane, toolboxes etc we had most of it listed thankfully. Another grey area is that neither Stephen or myself are covered by our own policy as working directors or employees. While I may not be able to change my circumstances, I fully intend to inform our Industry to ensure you are all protected from what I have just faced. So please sit down and go through your insurance policies and make the changes to better protect yourselves and your families.

CHINESE FOUNDATION

I have been advised by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries that another sample of Chinese foundation sent away for analysis has shown it to be 85% paraffin plus containing residues of chemicals which were most probably used for varroa treatment.

AHBIC representatives will be in Canberra this month (May) so we will arrange a visit with the Department to push our case to have all imported beeswax tested.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive is still working on a new Strategic Plan for the next five (5) years. We will be reporting on this at the State Conferences.

B-QUAL

Have you a QA program in your honey producing business? When exporting, more and more customers are asking for a QA program to be part of the conditions of their purchasing Australian honey. It is becoming more and more a requirement in Australia.

Australia has the industry developed program, B-QUAL see <http://www.bqual.com.au/> This program has been recently revised to make it more beekeeper friendly. Go online and have a look.

Many honey packers pay a premium if you have a QA program in place. If your honey packer does not, ask why?

ASIAN APICULTURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 14th Asian Apicultural Association Conference is being held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 22-25 October, 2018. The theme is “Bees, environment and sustainability”.

For more information go to www.aaaconference2018.com

APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

A reminder that the New Zealand conference is on from 22-24 July 2018. The theme is “Sustainability and traceability”.

Further details at <http://apicultureconference2018.co.nz/>

AUSTRALIAN MANUKA HONEY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) is still looking for new members.

Look up their website <https://www.manukaaustralia.org.au/> where you will find out the latest from the AMHA.

AGM DATES

Annual conferences for 2018, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

South Australian Apiarists Association	17 May – McLaren Vale
WA Farmers Federation – Beekeepers Section and BICWA	25-26 May - Perth
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	26 May - Launceston
Victorian Apiarists Association	31 May – 1 June - Ballarat
New South Wales Apiarists Association	26 June – Gold Coast
Queensland Beekeepers Association	27 June – Gold Coast
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	1 July – Gold Coast
Honey and Packers Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

The New South Wales Apiarists Association and the Queensland Beekeepers Association have advised that their meetings will be only for members. This is understandable as there will be mostly business for members with no guest speakers as the Congress has the speakers.

CSIRO SCIENTISTS HAVE CONFIRMED THE HYBRIDISATION OF TWO OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR PEST SPECIES, INTO A NEW AND IMPROVED MEGA-PEST.

One of the pests, the cotton bollworm, is widespread in Africa, Asia and Europe and causes damage to over 100 crops, including corn, cotton, tomato and soybean.

The damage and controlling the pest costs billions of dollars a year.

It is extremely mobile and has developed resistance to all pesticides used against it.

The other pest, the corn earworm, is a native of the Americas and has comparatively limited resistance and host range.

However, the combination of the two, in a novel hybrid with unlimited geographical boundaries is cause for major concern.

The CSIRO researchers in a paper published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA](#) provides clear evidence of the hybridisation of the two moths in Brazil.

“A hybrid such as this could go completely undetected should it invade another country. It is critical that we look beyond our own backyard to help fortify Australia’s defense and response to biosecurity threats,” Research Director leading CSIRO’s Biosecurity Risk Evaluation and Preparedness Program [Dr Paul De Barro](#) said.

“As Australia’s national science agency, we are constantly looking for new ways to protect the nation and technology like genome sequencing, is helping to tip the scales in our favour.”

While a combination of insecticides currently controls these pests well in Australia, it is important to study the pests themselves for sustainable long-term management world-wide.

The scientists confirmed that among the group of caterpillars studied, every individual was a hybrid.

“No two hybrids were the same suggesting a ‘hybrid swarm’ where multiple versions of different hybrids can be present within one population,” fellow CSIRO Scientist [Dr Tom Walsh](#) said.

The bollworm, commonly found in Australia, attacks more crops and develops much more resistance to pesticides than the earworm.

A concerning finding among the Brazilian hybrids was that one was 51 per cent earworm but included a known resistance gene from the bollworm.

Lead author of the paper Dr Craig Anderson, a former CSIRO scientist now based at The University of Edinburgh, believes the hybrid study has wide-ranging implications for the agricultural community across the Americas.

“On top of the impact already felt in South America, recent estimates that 65 per cent of the USA’s agricultural output is at risk of being affected by the bollworm demonstrates that this work has the potential to instigate changes to research priorities that will have direct ramifications for the people of America, through the food on their tables and the clothes on their backs,” Dr Anderson said.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 107082
Product name: Genfarm Bifenthrin 250 EC Insecticide / Miticide
Active constituent/s: 250 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name: Landmark Operations Limited
Applicant ACN: 008 743 217
Summary of use: For the control of insects and mites on fruit, vegetables and field crops
Date of registration: 23 March 2018
Product registration no.: 82898
Label approval no.: 82898/107082

Application no.: 111555
Product name: Masterole Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 240 g/L methoxyfenozide
Applicant name: Shandong Rainbow International Co Ltd
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For use on food crops
Date of registration: 28 March 2018
Product registration no.: 84852
Label approval no.: 84852/111555

Application no.: 113159
Product name: Surefire Spectrum 350 SC Soil Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 350 g/L imidacloprid
Applicant name: PCT Holdings Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 099 023 962
Summary of variation: To extend the use to include additional canegrub species in current situations, additional use in plant cane crops, use in potato crops, use in apple and citrus tree crops, and add a new size range
Date of variation: 23 March 2018
Product registration no.: 66265
Label approval no.: 66265/113159

Application no.: 111478
Product name: Farmalinx Sucker Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 200 g/L clothianidin
Applicant name: Farmalinx Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 134 353 245
Summary of use: For the control of leaf eating insects in eucalypt seedlings and young trees
Date of registration: 10 April 2018
Product registration no.: 84811
Label approval no.: 84811/111478

AFGHANISTAN HONEY PRODUCTION

Recent information received indicates that Afghanistan has the capacity to produce 11,000 tonnes of honey a year.

Currently there are 214,000 bee boxes put out for honey production in 32 provinces. That is an average of 51 kgs per hive. When you see pictures of Afghanistan it seems so dry and desolate. So where does it come from? There is no indication in the article as to what plants are being worked for the honey.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUMS

The Australian Women's Leadership Symposiums are a national series of events focused on the experiences of women leaders in the contemporary workforce.

Taking place in every state and territory capital between May and August, the Symposiums are an unparalleled gathering of the best and brightest female talent. Keynote speakers for 2018 include Gail Kelly, Professor Gillian Triggs, Nova Peris OAM OLY, Jessica Rowe AM, Ita Buttrose AO OBE, Katrina Webb OAM, The Right Hon Dame Jenny Shipley and many, many more.

The principal themes that will be tackled at this year's events include:

- *Resilience within the workplace*
- *Enabling women to lead*
- *The power of networking*
- *Being bold, being brave, being new*
- *Leading through change*
- *Getting comfortable with the uncomfortable.*

An attendance discount of 25% is currently available by entering code ANSY18 at the time of booking (available until each Symposium sells out). For more information and to book: www.wla.edu.au/symposium

FUMAGILAN-B NO LONGER AVAILABLE IN NORTH AMERICA

Beekeepers in the USA and Canada were surprised this month with a letter from Medivet, the single provider of a treatment for the honey bee gut parasite, Nosema. The letter to customers said the treatment, Fumagilin-B, is no longer available and, as a result, they anticipate closing their operation by June 2018. Many beekeepers use this treatment as part of their honey bee health management and with no alternative antibiotic for the treatment of Nosema, there is great concern about losing this tool.

In July 2017, Project Apis m. funded a project to study and innovate another avenue to drug development as treatments for Nosema, recognizing the value of supporting practical research. And now we have something under way! The project is led by Dr. Jonathan Snow, at Barnard College, who is approaching Nosema disease from a biomedical background, targeting the molecular pathways unique to microsporidian parasites, and there are already promising results. Using cage trials, one compound is as effective at killing Nosema as Fumagilin-B, without increased toxicity to bees.

When PAm funded this project, in partnership with the National Honey Board Production Research funds, we recognized the urgent need to add it to the honey bee health tool kit. Dr. Snow will be consulting with the USDA to determine what could 'fast track' this treatment to market, if trials are successful. This situation is a great example of why choosing practical honey bee research is important. PAm is at the forefront of directing work that will support the beekeeping industry, and with trusted partners like the National Honey Board, we work to stay ahead of new risks to honeybee health. Stay tuned for progress on this project!

Click <<https://sites.google.com/a/barnard.edu/jonathansnow/home>> to learn more about Dr. Jonathan Snow's Lab

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Contribution Details

Name:

Address:
.....State.....Postcode.....

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

Phone: Date:

Yes I wish to support my industry *(please tick one or more)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honey Producer
<i>with <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 50 hives = \$50.00</i>
<i>with <input type="checkbox"/> 51 & over hives = \$1.00 per hive</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Manufacturer/Supplier
<input type="checkbox"/> Honey Producer/Packer
<input type="checkbox"/> Honey Packer
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <i>(please specify)</i> |
|--|---|

Your contribution can be paid by

CHEQUE: \$ or DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....
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Please return this form to AHBIC by post or email
so your contribution can be recorded correctly

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AHBIC
P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

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ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Direct Deposit 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. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please publicise my name *(as a contributor)* in the AHBIC Newsletter

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

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