

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424

Monthly NEWS



March 2018

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry

www.honeybee.org.au

From: Trevor Weatherhead AM – Executive Director

ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Mugga ironbark

(Eucalyptus sideroxylon)

Duraikai State Forest

Queensland



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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 March 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
2018Faithfull, 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
McDonald, Robert
Morgan, Trevor
Nairn, Mal
NT Bees (Aust)
Plum, Len & Susan
Rohrlach, T & A
Ruge Honey
Saxonbee Enterprises
Shaw, Robert
Stokes, Peter
Walkabout Apiaries
Valkenburg Apiaries
Glasby, Garry
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Zadow, Ian & Mel

PRODUCER/PACKERS

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

Flow hive
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies
Quality Beekeeping Supplies
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies

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

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN BEE CONGRESS

Have you registered to come to Congress? Friday **6 April** is the closing date for early bird registrations.

Go to the website www.australianbeecongress.com.au for all the details.

There is also a Honey Show being held in conjunction with the Congress. I am sure you will have some award winning honey put aside. All you need is one bottle per class and be a delegate. Details are also on the website. So make the effort and put in entries for our Honey Show. The honey is what often attracts the media.

1 DOWN, 2 TO GO

As at 1 March 2018 we commenced the second year of our three (3) year proof of freedom requirement as part of the *Varroa jacobsoni* eradication program in Townsville.

So far so good.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The AHBIC Executive met recently in Melbourne. The major focus was on developing a Strategic Plan for our industry for the next five (5) years under the guidance of Tim Burfitt and John McKenzie. The previous Business Plan ended last year. More work is needed to finalise the plan but it should be available for the AGM.

We were fortunate in having the Wheen Bee Foundation provide funding so that we could bring together people from outside the Executive. We thank the Wheen Bee Foundation for their financial support.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF HONEY BEE POLLINATION IN AUSTRALIA

A recent paper published in January 2018, "*The Economic Valuation of Australian Managed and Wild Honey Bee Pollinators by John M Karasiński*" has put the value at between \$8.35 billion and \$19.97 billion. This is a big increase on the figures that we have previously quoted being \$4-6 billion. John is from the Curtin University in Western Australia.

To quote from the paper "*It is hoped the results of this study will be used by industry stakeholders and government's alike to frame agriculture policy reflecting the overall economic importance of this industry.*"

HYGIENIC BEHAVIOUR AND VARROA RESISTANCE

A recent paper has been published on the relationship between freeze killed brood and varroa resistance. It is:-

Gil Leclercq, Tjeerd Blacquièrè, Nicolas Gengler & Frédéric Francis (2018) Hygienic removal of freeze-killed brood does not predict Varroa-resistance traits in unselected stocks, Journal of Apicultural Research, 57:2, 292-299, DOI: 10.1080/00218839.2018.1426350

To quote from part of the paper:-

The removal of freeze-killed brood (FKB) has often been used as a proxy to assess the removal of Varroa-infested brood. The question is whether this approximation is reliable enough to estimate the benefits induced by the removal of Varroa-infested brood in unselected stocks. For this purpose, we investigated the relation between the removal of FKB and three other variables: (1) the percentage of pupae and workers infested by V. destructor; (2) the share of mites in brood compared to phoretic mites; and (3) the reproductive success of mites.

To be a reliable estimate, the removal of FKB should correlate with these three variables. Since hygienic behavior is naturally expressed and highly variable in unselected stocks, we chose to use such stocks to get a wide range of FKB removal. There was no correlation between FKB and the three other variables. We conclude that removal of FKB is not a good estimate for hygienic behavior towards Varroa mites in unselected stocks.

In conclusion, the assessment of the hygienic behavior through FKB assays had previously been shown to be reliable to select for resistance against multiple brood diseases, such as American foulbrood and chalkbrood (Spivak & Reuter, 2001a Spivak, M., & Reuter, G.S. (2001a). Resistance to American foulbrood disease by honey bee colonies Apis mellifera bred for hygienic behavior. However ... we could not show any significant correlation of the outcome of the test with the infestation nor with the reproductive success of the mite.

The freeze killed brood method is not to be confused with the varroa sensitive hygienic (VSH) method.

NEW EU LEVEL FOR MERCURY IN HONEY

The EU have set a new MRL for mercury in honey of 0.1 mg/kg.

AUSTRALIAN MANUKA HONEY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) has been given a \$165,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to use in the promotion of manuka.

It cannot be used in mounting a legal challenge to New Zealand attempting to trademark the name manuka honey.

AGM DATES

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

South Australian Apiarists Association	17 May -
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.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

A new insecticide is being considered for registration by APVMA. The active ingredient is afidopyropen to be sold as Versys Insecticide. Notes from the public release summary on toxicity to bees says:-

“Afidopyropen did not demonstrate toxicity to honey bees with an adult acute oral LD50 >100 µg/bee, adult acute contact LD50 >200 µg/bee and a larvae oral LD50 of 55.9 µg/bee. A number of higher tier studies were provided. The risk to bee brood and general hive health was determined to be acceptable. However, short term effects on bees exposed following application appear possible. The overall risk to bees was found to be acceptable with instruction to not apply the product while bees are foraging.”

Application no.: 107447
Product name: Kaiso 240EG Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 240 g/kg lambda-cyhalothrin
Applicant name: Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 061 362 347
Summary of use: For the control of certain insect pests in a range of horticultural and field crops
Date of registration: 9 March 2018
Product registration no.: 83077
Label approval no.: 83077/107447

Application no.: 114282
Product name: Kenso Agcare Taekwando 250 CS Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 250 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin
Applicant name: Kenso Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For the control of certain insect pests in cotton, barley, wheat and various field crops
Date of registration: 15 March 2018
Product registration no.: 85948
Label approval no.: 85948/114282

Application no.: 114063
Product name: Agsure Methomyl 225 Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 225 g/L methomyl (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Elders Rural Services Australia Limited
Applicant ACN: 004 045 121
Summary of use: For the control of certain pests of cereals, fruit, legumes, cotton, oil seed crops, tobacco, hops, vegetables, pastures, peanuts, ginger, duboisia and other crops
Date of registration: 16 March 2018
Product registration no.: 85786
Label approval no.: 85786/114063

Application no.: 112019
Active constituent/s: clofentezine
Applicant name: Agrosolve Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 163 422 464
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 16 March 2018
Approval no.: 85008

VALUE OF CHEMICALS SOLD IN 2016-17

Some figures from the APVMA Gazette for the value of chemicals which may be of interest to some:-

Fungicides	\$343 million
Herbicides	\$1.683 billion
Insecticides	\$484 million
Miticides	\$36 million
Mixed function pesticides	\$39 million
Seed treatments	\$65 million



Industry Advice Notice **Australian honey and China**

Ref: NPG 210318

Date of issue: 21 March 2018

Date of effect: Immediate

Attention:

- Australian Honey Bee Industry Association
- Honey producer-packers and beekeepers
- Exporters and freight agents

Overseas markets: China

Purpose

To notify of recent market access issues relating to the export of Australian honey to China.

Background

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is the central competent authority for the export of prescribed and non-prescribed goods.

For non-prescribed goods, the department issues export certificates in accordance with overseas country requirements.

The Chinese government has notified the department that consignments of Australian honey have been detected with American Foulbrood (AFB).

Consideration

Australian honey producer-packers should ensure honey does not contain AFB when exporting to China.

- Regular sampling and laboratory testing of Australian honey for bee disease may support customer specifications or market access objectives.
- Certification to B-Qual or other independent standard/code of practice might compliment overseas market access requirements.
- Detection of AFB in honey may result in a Chinese authority suspending the Australian honey producer-packer.

Further information

Chinese import conditions for Australian honey visit <https://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

B-Qual visit <http://bqual.com.au/>

Establishments currently suspended by China AQSIQ Food Safety Bureau visit <http://pub.fsciq.cn/approval/SitePages/fengchanpin.aspx>

Contacts

General questions about the export of non-prescribed goods email NPGExports@agriculture.gov.au

The information provided above is current at the time of writing and is intended for use as guidance only and should not be taken as definitive or exhaustive. The Commonwealth endeavours to keep information current and accurate, however, it may be subject to change without notice. Exporters are encouraged to verify these details with their importers prior to undertaking production/exports. The Commonwealth will not accept liability for any loss resulting from reliance on information contained in this notice.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

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
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: \$.....
(or Money Order)

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

POST
AHBIC
P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

EMAIL
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