



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

August 2016

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC.

We urge beekeepers to support those Packers/Queen Bee Breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

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

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 September 2015

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

AB's Honey
Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bluebees Producers
Blue Hills Honey
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Buntine, Robert
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Davies Apiaries
Dewar Apiaries
Dewar, Robert

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

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

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ASIAN BEES AND *VARROA JACOBSONI* IN TOWNSVILLE

I have sent out Information no.8 on 3 September, 2016.



Preparing for sugar shake. Photo – Simeon Valkenburg

This is a system perfected by Ben Oldroyd and Ros Gloag from the University of Sydney. As reported elsewhere cerana drones were able to be caught and even some mellifera. This will now be a very useful tool in showing the presence or absence of cerana in an area.

We have more volunteers scheduled to go to Townsville over the next few weeks. If you have the skills in performing the sugar shake, alcohol wash and drone uncapping and you can spend a week in Townsville as a volunteer, then please contact Craig Klingner on 0428 344 125 or email at klingnershoneyco@bordnet.com.au



Pick the Asian bee

Further to that information, I would report on the week in Townsville. We had four (4) volunteers who taught the local beekeepers how to carry out sugar shakes, alcohol washes and drone uncapping. The local beekeepers, whose hives were visited, were very appreciative and are now able to carry out these tests themselves. There are more beekeepers in Townsville who the next series of volunteers will also teach.

One of the highlights was to be able to go out with the Queensland Department staff who had been trained in using helium filled balloons and lures to attract drones.



Looking for queen prior to sugar shake. Photo – Ben Moore



The helium balloons with beekeeper volunteers - L. to R. Paul Valkenburg Trevor Weatherhead, Jeff Matsen, Simeon Valkenburg, Ben Moore

TRADEMARKING OF MANUKA

Some in New Zealand are attempting to trademark “manuka” and make it so that only honey from *Leptospermum scoparium* in New Zealand can be called manuka. We are watching developments here and will be objecting. Manuka is a term that has a history of use in Australia as well.

AHBIC can well understand the New Zealanders wanting to make sure that what is labelled as New Zealand manuka is in fact manuka. Australia is also on the same position. Some see it as NZ wanting to collar the market.

There is no reason why Australia and New Zealand could not work together to make sure that what is sold as manuka is manuka. There are many cases of fraudulent labelling of manuka around the world.

There has been some publicity on this. This is a recent article in the Wall Street Journal.

“New Zealand, Australia Fight Over Manuka Honey Pot

Fearing the sting of competition in the market for the premium-priced superfood, New Zealand seeks to trademark the name

By

LUCY CRAYMER

Aug. 31, 2016 11:24 a.m. ET

*A sticky tug-of-war has arisen over the right to the “manuka honey” label—the name attached to a pricey variety whose superfood status has won it fans from TV’s Kourtney Kardashian to tennis star Novak Djokovic. New Zealand honey makers recently made a beeline for the country’s Intellectual Property Office seeking exclusive international rights to “manuka,” noting that it’s the name their country’s indigenous Māori people gave to the tree whose nectar is the basis of the honey. Their counterparts in Australia shot back that while they may mostly know the tree by the rather more prosaic name “jellybush” (in scientific nomenclature, *Leptospermum scoparium*), it is native there as well.*

“They complain that they can’t produce enough manuka honey for the world, and they forget about us,” Lindsay Bourke, chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, said of the New Zealanders.

“They are our closest friends, and they should be working with us.”

The Australian council said it intends to file an objection to the trademark application, which was made by Unique Manuka Factor, a trade group representing most of New Zealand’s manuka producers.

For the honey makers of New Zealand—[No. 3 globally in honey exports at \\$227.6 million](#), around 80% from the manuka variety—the worries go deeper than Australia. They fear that anyone in the right climate could get hold of tree seedlings and start making their own manuka. At least one U.K. producer is marketing some of its honey as containing the manuka variety.

Winning a trademark would prevent producers outside New Zealand from labeling their honey manuka—much as wine producers outside France’s Champagne region are barred from using that storied name for their sparkling wine, even if they make it with the same grapes and the same production process.

“It’s about protecting the names and words that are of value to you as a country,” said John Rawcliffe, spokesman for Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association. “Anyone could plant manuka anywhere. And the consumer is demanding to know it has come from here.”

The incentive on all sides is fireweed-clear: While the export value of ordinary honey is about 20 U.S. cents an ounce, manuka honey can bring \$3.40, according to the New Zealand government. Its popularity is driven by scientific research showing it can help heal wounds, ulcers and burns—the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the sale of manuka-honey dressings—and bolder claims by fans that its health benefits range from soothing a sore throat to boosting the immune system. The honey’s antibacterial properties are the product of substances in the nectar produced by the tree’s flowers, converted and accentuated by bee magic.

Mr. Djokovic, ranked world No. 1 in men’s singles tennis, has [said he starts his day with two teaspoons of manuka honey and also eats it during matches](#). Manuka fan Ms. Kardashian has been hired to front an advertisement for New Zealand-based cosmetics company Manuka Doctor.

The decision to apply for a trademark, Mr. Rawcliffe said, was partly prompted by signs that Australia’s manuka industry, while still small in comparison to New Zealand’s, is busy getting bigger.

Australian researchers are working to determine which of the country’s 86 jellybush varieties produce the right kind of nectar, new investors are looking to move into the sector and existing producers are increasing capacity.

“The market has really exploded and much of that has been driven by demand from China,” says Michael Howes, owner of Active Medicinal Honey Pty Ltd., who is looking to double the number of hives he has in Australia’s New South Wales to 1,000.

Not everyone in New Zealand is upset by Australia’s ambitions. New Zealand honey producer [Comvita](#) Ltd. has formed a joint venture with Australia’s largest producer, [Capilano Honey](#) Ltd., to increase its access to Australian honey. Comvita looked to source from Australia because its manuka is cheaper—primarily because consumers dislike the taste. For Comvita, this isn’t a problem, Chief Executive Scott Coulter said: It buys the honey mostly for medical uses.

As for the name, Mr. Coulter added, Australia has reasonable objections to New Zealand's monopoly hopes—beyond, that is, having a suburb of its capital, Canberra, called Manuka.

“They have the same type of plant and they produce the same type of honey from it,” he said, “so it's hard to argue that it's the sole rights of New Zealand to sell that type of honey.”

AHBIC Chairperson, Lindsay Bourke has also put out some information.

GRAND THEFT MANUKA

A recent application by the UMF Honey Association Inc of New Zealand to trademark 'Manuka Honey' is an affront to Australian producers.

*Manuka honey has been produced here in Tasmania since the arrival of the European honey bee. There are numerous records of the word 'Manuka' in print and in place names dating back at least to 1884. The Manuka tree, or *Leptospermum scoparium*, originated in Tasmania and seed dispersed from there to New Zealand. Australia is home to over 80 species of *Leptospermum* to New Zealand's one, yet New Zealand apiarists wish to claim it as their own!*

*We could sympathise; they long assumed that Manuka was unique to New Zealand and much of the marketing and research from which all Manuka producers now benefit was undertaken on that basis. However, neither the name 'Manuka' nor the species *Leptospermum scoparium* are unique to New Zealand and Manuka should not join Kiwi Fruit and Bungee Jumping on the list of stolen and re-branded Kiwi products.*

Australia will fight this application if necessary - but the point is we shouldn't have to!

*Lindsay Bourke
Chairman Australian Honey Bee Industry Council*

PERSONAL PROPERTIES SECURITY REGISTER

Not that I wish misfortune on anyone but an article in the ABC Rural news may be of interest to some beekeepers. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-05/farmers-risk-losing-millions-as-bankruptcies-rise-nationally/7692912>

HONEY MONTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

At the AGM the nomination for the Chair of this Committee has declined the nomination.

AHBIC is now looking for expressions of interest for someone to fill this role. For those States that are participating, the role for the Chair is a co-ordinating one where information is exchanged. The Chair is also responsible for preparing information to go on the AHBIC website.

Anyone who is interested in this role, please contact the Executive Director of AHBIC by email at ahbic@honeybee.org.au

DRONE BEE SEMEN IMPORTATION

AHBIC is still in negotiation with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources about the protocol for the importation of drone bee semen.

The Department is still wanting the semen to come in without any testing whereas AHBIC is arguing for testing for deformed wing virus, slow paralysis virus and Africanised genes before it is released to the importer.

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

To date, despite the representations made to the Saudi's by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the export of honey to Saudi Arabia from countries that have small hive beetle is still banned.

EXPORTS TO JAPAN

Please note that there is now a charge on quota certificates for Japan. The charge is:-

Certificates for non-prescribed goods e.g. honey will be charged \$76, which is remitted to \$47 until further notice

Advice has also been received that the quota for honey for Japan has been reached for this year.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

Still no word out from the USA regarding the re-opening of the import of live bees from Australia.

AGM

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

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

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

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no:	107385
Product name:	Huilong Bifenthrin 80 SC Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	80 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name:	Huilong Agrochemicals Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	165 921 031
Summary of variation:	To change the distinguishing product name and the name that appears on the label from 'AGSPRAY BIFENTHRIN 80 SC INSECTICIDE' to 'HUILONG BIFENTHRIN 80 SC INSECTICIDE'
Date of variation:	18 July 2016
Product registration no.:	67140
Label approval no.:	67140/107385

Application no.:	106278
Product name:	Conquest Fiptron 200 Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	200 g/L fipronil
Applicant name:	Conquest Crop Protection Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	098 814 932
Summary of use:	For the control of various insect pests in bananas, brassicas, cotton, wine grapevines, potatoes, sugarcane and for the control of ants in commercial turf
Date of registration/approval:	10 August 2016
Product registration no.:	82626
Label approval no.:	82626/106278

Application no.:	60514
Active constituent/s:	Momfluorothrin
Applicant name:	Sumitomo Chemical Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	081 096 255
Summary of use:	For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval:	3 August 2016
Approval no.:	69332

Application no.:	57636
Active constituent/s:	Fosthiazate
Applicant name:	Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha Ltd
Applicant ACN:	N/A
Summary of use:	For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval:	4 August 2016
Approval no.:	68152

LEVYABLE HONEY IN AUSTRALIA

Figures provided by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have shown a significant decline in the amount of levyable honey in Australia in recent years. From the figures below we can see that since 2012-13 the amount has decreased by around 33%.

Year	Kilos of honey on which levy was paid
2012-13	22,384,754
2013-14	21,762,399
2014-15	17,995,189
2015-16	14,810,747

This decrease has all sorts of ramifications for our industry.

Firstly, the amount of research levy has decreased which means that the amount of research will decrease because of the lack of levy receipts and the resultant loss of matching money by the Federal Government.

Secondly, funding of the Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO) is also funded out of the levy collections and a loss of production will result in a reduction in the amount of money collected for funding the BBO's.

Thirdly, the National Residue Survey (NRS) levy receipts will be down. We are already using up reserves in this fund. This comes on top of the European Union requirements, from their recent audit, that the NRS program be changed which will result in increased costs to run the program.

So we can only hope for better seasons so that our honey production gets back to a normal situation.

ALMOND POLLINATION

An article on the ABC Rural program says that there will be a need for 70,000 more hives for almond pollination within five (5) years. See article at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-19/bees-and-almonds/7765408>

Reports for this year indicate a successful year with around 180,000 hives used in pollination.

Victorian bee expert leaves after half a century service

25 August 2016

"Agriculture Victoria's Senior Apicultural Officer, Russell Goodman, is about to leave the bee business after 51 years keeping the state's pollinators healthy.

Russell is one of Australia's most respected honey bee experts, and holder of the 2014 Public Service Medal given as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Recent decades have seen increased awareness of the importance of healthy bees for Australian and global food production, and experienced and talented apiarists like Russell are on the front line keeping our bees safe.

He has developed and delivered awareness and training programs for beekeepers to help them manage pests and diseases such as European Foulbrood, American Foulbrood, small hive beetle and varroa mite.

His books 'Beekeeping in Australia', co-authored with Peter Kaczynski, and 'Honey Flora of Victoria' have been through multiple editions and are seen as the go-to guides for honey producers big and small. The [books are available for free download on the RIRDC website](#).

With nearly 110,000 hives and almost 5,000 registered bee keepers in Victoria – 1,500 of them setting up hives since 2011 – reliable, easily available information is vital to protect the biosecurity of the whole honeybee and pollination industry.

Victoria's Chief Plant Health Officer, Dr Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, said that thanks to Russell's expert advice on honeybee pollination, Victoria has a flourishing almond industry.

"Last week we saw the country's biggest livestock migration as bees from around the country arrived in Robinvale, north-west Victoria, to pollinate our almonds," Dr Vivian-Smith said.

"Without sound advice on preventing, detecting and managing bee pests and diseases from experts like Russell Goodman, this kind of mass pollination would be at significant risk."

"Almond production in Victoria in 2014-15 exceeded \$500 million, and every single one of those almonds was due to pollination by a healthy bee," she said.

Russell will leave the department at the end of August for a period of extended leave before formally retiring in 2017 after more than half a century of service.

Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford said, "Agriculture Victoria has benefitted immensely from Russell's expertise, and our bee keepers and orchardists have a bright future to look forward to - I wish him all the best in retirement."

With Russell's retirement bee biosecurity work will continue to be delivered jointly by Biosecurity Branch and Agriculture Services and Biosecurity Operations, along with newly appointed Bee Biosecurity Officer, Jessica Hartland."

AHBIC also records its thanks to Russell for the work he has performed for our industry on the national front. Russell has been only too willing to help out with documents such as the Readiness Plan and, when AHBIC was in Animal Health Australia, Russell was part of the working group that developed the AusVetPlan for the various exotic pests and diseases.

Also Russell was part of the working group which put together the Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers which has been widely applauded within the industry.

One aspect that was not touched on in the article above is the amount of publications that Russell has been author or co-author of. There are two books mentioned above but much of the early pollination work was carried out by Russell's old boss, Don Langridge, with a young Russell as the willing offside. You need only look at pollination papers published by RIRDC to see the number of times Russell features in the references quoted.

We wish Russell and Margaret a happy retirement with many train trips.

APIMONDIA 2017

For those interested in attending the 2017 Apimondia in Turkey there is more information that has been added to the website www.apimondia2017.org

2017 SCIENCE AND INNOVATION AWARDS

The 2017 Science and Innovation Awards for young people in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are now open. If you know anyone in our industry that you believe would be eligible, please let them know. Applications need to be in by 14 October, 2016.

For more details see <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/conferences-events/scienceawards/info-for-applicants>

17TH. CHINA INTERNATIONAL FOOD EXHIBITION

The 17th China (Guangzhou) International Food Exhibition & Guangzhou Import Food Exhibition is being held on 16-18 June next year.

For more details see <http://www.ifechina.com/>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name:

Address:

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

Phone: Date:

Yes I wish to support my industry

Up to 50 hives = \$50.00 51 and over hives = \$1.00 per hive

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

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

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____

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

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DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

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so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

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Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 150 976 405



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