

# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

"The voice of the Beekeeper"

Volume 3 Number 4  
JULY-AUGUST 2010

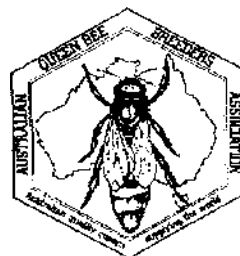


## Inside:

- Plague Locusts Warning
- Vacant Bee sites



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# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

*The Journal of the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. (NSWAA)*

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**COVER:** The Capilano Honey Stand at the Sydney *Good Food & Wine Show*

**Copy Deadline for Next Issue of *Australia's Honeybee News* - 1 October 2010**

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*The Association Membership year runs  
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## SEASON

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 are being 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 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.

## STATE EXECUTIVE

The State Executive met on 29-30 July at Orange. On the first day the AFB program presented at Conference was discussed with various sections of DPI (I&I).

Feedback from these discussions are that most of the suggested program could be implemented within existing legislation and changes that may occur, with reviews being carried out at present, could enhance the program.

Much of the success of this meeting goes to Tim Burfitt and Doug Somerville who discussed the program with DPI staff at an earlier in-house meeting. Some definite answers are to come back to Industry by early September.

## PLAGUE LOCUSTS

The Executive had a presentation from the Plague Locust division of I&I. The density of some of the egg beds are reported to be 15,000/sq metre. These densities are unprecedented in recent decades so heavy locust activity and subsequently high levels of control measures will have to occur.

The maps of the known egg beds show that beginning in the Northern Slopes and Plains with moderate densities, increasing to extremely high densities in the South (Victoria Border, around Wagga and West). We were told that beekeepers could find out what activities may occur locally, from the LHPA rangers.

Beekeepers are urged to be extremely careful where hives are placed from late August onward, as this is when hoppers are expected to begin hatching. We have included a map and information from the Locust division of I&I to help beekeepers make decisions.

All landholders are being sent a letter during August. There is a paragraph in the letter asking landholders to be aware of any apiaries on their land and neighboring land so they may inform the apiarist of expected (intended) sprayings.

This highlights the benefit of signage by beekeepers. If you have your "Beekeeping Operations Ahead" signs or some form of identification with contact phone numbers displayed, you can be contacted quickly.

There are websites printed in this edition (*page 17*) so as the season unfolds beekeepers are able to access information.

## NSW FARMERS

The Executive also had a meeting with a representative of the NSW Farmers' Association. This meeting was arranged to ascertain whether the NSW Apiarists' Association could have an affiliation with the NSW Farmers' Association.

We were informed that individual beekeepers will have to join as full members (\$350 - \$600). A branch can be formed with a minimum of 20 members and if these 20 members were from different areas of the State, then a Virtual Branch may be formed with phone hookups for meetings.

The Executive feel that there are many issues that both Associations should work together on, however there are other issues which we would be at odds with but will investigate and pursue an affiliation rather than individual membership. The Executive would like to hear from members as to their views on this issue.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Executive is forced to increase membership rates to reflect inflation. There has not been an increase for 5 years and the increase reflects that.

**The new rates from 1 March 2011 are as follows:**  
(GST Inclusive)

Affiliated/Retired/Student	\$ 65.00	(1 vote)
0 to 10 hives	\$ 65.00	(1 vote)
11 to 200 hives	\$120.00	(2 votes)
201 to 400 hives	\$180.00	(4 votes)
401 to 700 hives	\$230.00	(6 votes)
701 to 1000 hives	\$300.00	(8 votes)
1001 to 1500 hives	\$340.00	(10 votes)
Over 1500 hives	\$400.00	(12 votes)

## IBCs & DRUMS FOR HONEY

The Executive are in the final stages of negotiations with Schutz DSL Australia to offer members substantial savings on the purchase of IBCs and Drums for honey. Full details will be published in the next edition.

**Bill Weiss**  
State President

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## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Karl Draber           Wodonga VIC  
Michael Johnson   Goonellabah

## MARCUS OLDHAM RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE 2010

By James Kershaw

On the 27 June I had the privilege to attend the 2010 Rural Leadership Course held at Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, Victoria.

The course was held for 6 days by a variety of lecturers. The main focus was on leadership and what makes a good leader. Various activities were centred on, public speaking, conducting a good meeting, creating press releases and dealing with the media and communication skills.

34 young Australians attended, each of us was expected to participate in every activity. One of the activities we participated in was to give a three minute speech. Each speech was video recorded to give each of us individual feedback on their presentation. The topic I chose was "Varroa" and how it would affect the Australian Apiary and Food Industries.

Every evening at drinks/dinner we had a guest speaker talking from a wide span of backgrounds. I thought each of the guest speakers were motivating. Mr Jim Allen was one of the speakers. Mr Allen is the founding owner of the Complete Angler Fishing stores. Mr Allen discussed how he turned a passion into a business, which was very interesting.

Overall it was a fantastic 6 days at Marcus Oldham College. I met some interesting people from a wide range of rural industries including two fellow beekeepers from South Australia and Queensland.

I would recommend the course because the skills you learn are life skills. You don't need to be a hardened campaigner to attend; you can be a nervous novice like me. Thanks again to the NSW Apiarists' Association for sponsoring me to attend. With much anticipation what I learnt at Marcus Oldham College will help me support our industry.



James Kershaw (NSW), John Lawrenson (Director GRDC),  
Daniel Jones (QLD) & Graham Brooks (SA)

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Emlocks and straps are no longer required.

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All boxes must be less than 25kg

These changes are a result of your feedback regarding our service.  
We thank you for your continued support and hope the improvements we have made makes your experience with our service even better.

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# DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

Technical Specialist, Honeybees - Industry & Investment NSW - Goulburn

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## OTC and EFB

The use of Oxytetracycline (OTC) to suppress the disease European foulbrood (EFB) has been very successful since the disease was first identified in Australia in 1977, the year I first started keeping bees. Lucky for Western Australia this disease still hasn't made its way across the Nullarbor Plain.

Beekeepers continue to regard this disease as one of the most serious bee diseases in NSW in terms of reduced productivity of affected hives. Research has demonstrated that this disease is highly sensitive to OTC and no cases of resistance have been identified.

The disease remains in a vegetative cell state all the time and can remain viable for up to 3 years. Only when the disease is multiplying in the bee larvae is the bacterium susceptible to antibiotics. EFB is highly contagious with all stages of larvae development susceptible to infection.

Incidences of the disease are strongly correlated with climatic and nutritional stress factors. Cooler wet weather and poor nutrition will promote the incidence of this disease.

Bee colonies should be carefully examined for disease several times each year. When looking for EFB, carefully examine combs containing unsealed brood.

### Signs of the disease

- Brood affected with EFB may have a mottled, peppered appearance, with healthy brood cells intermingled with dead or dying ones.
- Larvae are mostly affected in the unsealed, curled-up stage, although in severe cases brood of all ages may be affected.
- Diseased larvae collapse and become dislodged from their normal position in the cells. Their colour changes from pearly white to yellow and finally, yellowish brown. After two to four weeks, larvae dry up to form a brown scale which can easily be removed from the cell.
- In some cases sealed brood is affected and the capped brood takes on a mottled appearance with scattered sunken and perforated cappings. Pupae may have a similar appearance to those affected by American foulbrood.
- The odour of infected brood varies from odourless to sour or foul, depending on the secondary invading bacteria present.
- Outer combs of the brood nest may show signs of the disease earlier and may have a heavier infection than inner combs in the same colony.
- Dead brood probed with a matchstick usually has a watery consistency, although the sealed brown pupae may exhibit a slightly rosey consistency.
- Worker bees may remove and discard diseased larvae as they die and thus a colony may show few signs of disease.

Diagnosis solely on the basis of the signs described above is not always reliable. EFB can be easily confused with a number of non-disease conditions and viral diseases. The only accurate diagnostic method is laboratory examination, particularly where the stages resemble signs of American foulbrood (AFB).

- With both diseases, the brood appears mottled or peppered.
- Both EFB and AFB can result in diseased larvae under sealed cells, exhibiting a sunken, dark appearance with perforated cappings.

- Dead brood probed with a matchstick may show signs of a brown rosey consistency in infections of both EFB and AFB.

To conduct tests, diseased larvae or pupae are smeared on a glass microscope slide. They are stained and microscopically examined for evidence of either the bacterium causing EFB or the secondary invader *Paenibacillus alvei*.

Beekeepers can use a laboratory diagnostic service by submitting comb samples or smears of diseased larvae on a glass microscope slide. Samples should be submitted to the State Veterinary Laboratory address at the end of this article. The samples should be accompanied by a covering letter that states the condition of the colony and why disease is suspected, also your contact details.

OTC is available on prescription from a veterinarian or an order to supply can be obtained from an apiary officer. The protocols for an apiary officer to issue an order to supply OTC include:

- The officer or an inspector must sight samples of diseased brood or the State Veterinary Laboratory has confirmed the disease.
- The quantity of OTC prescribed must not exceed the dose rate to treat all the hives infected in the apiary or apiaries.
- The order can only be issued if the disease has been diagnosed within the past 8 weeks.
- The beekeeper must be a registered beekeeper with the department.
- The quantity of OTC for which the order is made will not exceed the number of hives the beekeeper has registered.
- The issuing of an authority to purchase OTC is at the discretion of the apiary officer.

To minimise the possibility of antibiotic residues in honey, the antibiotic must not be applied to colonies within eight weeks of any anticipated honey extraction. This does not mean that the honey is residue free after this time. Surplus honey should be removed before treatment.

EFB is commonly referred to as a stress related disease and this is one reason why, when moving bees, it is better to treat colonies after they have been shifted rather than before. The stress on bees associated with shifting may cause the failure of a treatment given before shifting.

Many beekeepers only treat colonies that show signs of EFB. If more than 10% of the colonies in an apiary show signs of the disease, all colonies could be considered for treatment. Signs and treatment may occur at any time. Treated colonies should be identified so that honey is not extracted from them for at least eight weeks.

Dry feeding is the only method recommended by the NSW DPI.

Treat each full-sized hive (two-deck or better) with 1 g of soluble OTC (active ingredient) mixed thoroughly in 100 g of castor sugar. Formulations containing 10 g/kg of active oxytetracycline hydrochloride made up with castor sugar can be used direct from the container (one example is Broodmix®).

When mixing antibiotics, do it with caution, using gloves and a face mask. The OTC formulation and the castor sugar must be thoroughly mixed before treatment. If prolonged transport of home-mixed formulations is necessary, re-mix the formulation on arrival in case the mixture has settled out.



Apply the dry mixture by sprinkling between brood nest frames. Queen excluders should be removed before applying the treatment. Treatments should not be applied by dusting the face of combs with powder – colonies treated this way may suffer additional stress when larvae are exposed to concentrated antibiotic. Antibiotic treatment is effective only if fed to larvae with normal food by nurse bees and not by direct contact of larvae with the antibiotic powder.

Identify all honey extracted after any treatments of OTC. Ensure when selling bulk honey that this information is made available to the buyer of your honey.

Once the mixture of OTC reaches its expiry date, its effectiveness is questionable. Do not ignore expiry dates on the basis of supposed economics. It may cost you more in the long run.

Do not compensate for outdated antibiotics by feeding more medications than recommended. You may be still using a far lower concentration than required, or even a far higher concentration. The low concentration may not clean up the EFB adequately and this could promote the development of resistant strains of EFB organisms. The higher concentration may actually be toxic to the bees.

The ideal storage temperature recommended by the manufacturers is below 25°C. Storing OTC in the freezer reduces deterioration of the potency quite considerably. Do not store OTC in a car or truck – this is a common practice, but is detrimental as it reduces the life of the antibiotic.

While there may be times when antibiotic treatment is considered to be the only answer, the practice is becoming increasingly less attractive because of the possibility of honey contamination and the development of resistant strains of EFB.

In some commercial operations antibiotics are not used at all. Consider the following forms of prevention – all factors combined will certainly reduce your dependence on antibiotics.

- A young vigorous queen will always do better than an older queen. Select disease-resistant breeding stock.
- Regular replacement of brood nest combs will help to reduce the concentration of disease-causing organisms in the brood nest. This can be done by placing two or more white combs or foundation in the brood nest each year.
- Shifting bees has long been recognised as stressful to bees. Moving bees at night with an open entrance will minimise stress. Moving bees closed up may lead to excessive heat production and associated stress. Bees are more likely to show signs of EFB soon after being moved.
- Nutritional problems can be divided into two categories – lack of nectar or lack of pollen. If ample honey is stored, shortage of nectar should not be a problem. But good quality pollen is another matter. Pollen is available either when it is stored or when it is available from currently flowering plants. A good supply of pollen with adequate protein levels and a well balanced group of amino acids is most important to reduce any nutritional imbalance and thus stress on the bees. A lack of quality pollen can be overcome by artificially feeding previously collected pollen or pollen substitutes.

EFB is a serious disease but, with careful management and thought, its incidence can be reduced. If colonies need treatment, apply the antibiotic to the brood nest under the queen excluder at least eight weeks before any anticipated honey extraction.

**Address samples to the Officer in Charge at:**  
**Regional Veterinary Laboratory**  
**Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute**  
**PMB 8, Camden NSW 2570**

For further information refer to the Primefact European Foulbrood and its control No.1000 on the DPI website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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# NICK'S NEWS

from I&I NSW

Nick Annand

Livestock Officer (Bees), Industry and Investment NSW, Bathurst  
Ph: 02 6330 1210 Email: [nicholas.annand@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicholas.annand@industry.nsw.gov.au)



## Pests and diseases of honey bees Course

The Pests and diseases of honey bees courses continue to be run across the state with last 4 being at:

Griffith	14/15 September 2010
Wagga Wagga	16/17 September 2010
Kempsey	19/20 October 2010
Tocal	21/22 October 2010

Don't forget this course is Farmready subsidised so if you are an apiarist primary producer it will cost you nothing but your time.

To book your spot in one of these courses, contact:

Kim Griffiths, Short Course Secretary, Tocal College

Phone: 1800 025 520,

Email: [kim.griffiths@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kim.griffiths@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Transport of open entrance hives

The issue of escaping bees potentially being a nuisance where bee trucks stop during open entrance haulage was raised at the Crop Pollination Association AGM held at Young in August. The problem is particularly bad during the almond pollination because of the large concentration of hives moving to and from the almonds over a short period. Numerous trucks stopping at the one facility can manifest the problem. There is a need for beekeepers to be proactive in trying to minimise escaping bees at any public facilities such as service stations. As beekeepers your actions may prevent any enforced requirement that bees be netted during transport. Netting hives on the truck would just add additional time, labour and costs when moving bees.

## Ways to minimise escaping bees during transport:

- Feed yourself and fuel the truck just prior to picking up bees.
- Carry food and drinks for the trip in the truck to minimise the need to stop at public facilities.
- Rest and eat away from busy public areas and lights that may attract bees.
- If a stop is required at a public facility, be as quick as you can and if possible park the truck away from lights.

Relevant NSW Regulations relating to above:

## APIARIES REGULATION 2005

### 15. Night parking of vehicle containing bees

When a vehicle contains a beehive with an open entrance, a person must not park the vehicle between the hours of sunset and sunrise:

- (a) within 200 metres of a street light, or
- (b) within a residential area

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

## Varroa Surveillance

Please remain vigilant with regards surveillance of your bees for varroa and regularly do some sugar shakes with your bees (please record the results of any you do).

## Asian Honey Bees

The eradication program continues around Cairns in far north Queensland to eradicate the Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana javana*). The first Asian honey bee (AHB in this article only refers to *A. cerana*) colony was detected in the mast of a boat dry docked near Cairns harbour in May 2007. As of the 30/7/10 154 swarms and nests of AHBs have been found and destroyed. The AHB are a not yet endemic in Queensland with all efforts still aiming for eradication. Currently 36 field staff are on the job.

The AHB is still considered an exotic pest in NSW with no detections related to this incursion. The likely hood of this pest ever getting to NSW relies heavily on the actions and success of the current eradication program. If the program was to be abandoned in the belief eradication was not possible or feasible, there is no doubt the AHB's would spread into and establish in NSW. Due to the behavioural traits of the bee, this is likely to happen rapidly through the accidental movement of colonies in freight. If not initially detected the AHB could spread and become established before being noticed, with the potential to spread through much of the eastern half of NSW.

The AHB is a major threat to beekeepers. The introduction of the AHB into the Solomon Islands caused the loss of thousands of European honey bee (EHB) colonies decimating the apiary industry on the islands it colonised. The AHB out-competed the EHB for food resources and even robbed directly from the EHB colonies resulting in them dying out. In 1990 Nepal had the reverse happen with the introduction of *A. mellifera*. The EHB became dominate over the native *A. cerana*. Who knows what impact the AHB will have in Australia if it becomes endemic?

The relationship between the two bees could vary between regions, depending on which is better suited to that situation. How much of the country the javana strain of the *A. cerana* could become established is not fully known, but in PNG it established in both the hot humid lowlands and the cool highlands. Other sub species of *A. cerana* are found far and wide across a range of climatic areas in Asia. Individual *A. cerana* bees can also survive colder and hotter body temperatures than the EHB. So it is possible that much of the current country infested by European honey bees could become infested by AHB's, not just the tropics.



*Apis cerana javana* occupying a European honey bee hive that had died out because of the AHB in the Solomon Islands

### Impact on pollinators

How AHBs will impact on other pollinators and how that is reflected through changes in the ecology is unknown. The eradication team in Far Nth Qld recently detected foraging AHB's robbing from a stingless bee nest at Glen Allyn. This is a worrying finding, highlighting the problems these bees may create either through competition for resources and direct stealing of food reserves from different species.

The nesting and swarming behaviour of AHB is also of concerning. The bees will inhabit smaller cavities than EHB's and they swarm a lot more frequently reducing the number of available cavities for other animals to live and breed in such as gliders, birds, possums, micro bats, stingless bees, etc. The AHBs presence may directly impact on numbers and survival of some of the native animals including pollinators such as gliders, birds and native bees which could indirectly see variation in pollination patterns resulting in short and long term flora changes. These unknowns are highlighting the major threat these bees could pose to the ecology of different environments.

### Use of *A. cerana* for pollination

If the AHB was to become endemic in Australia (hopeful not) how would it impact on the pollination industry. There are a lot of unknowns with perhaps some possibilities, disadvantages and advantages depending on what industry you are in.

No doubt there is a large cross over between the two species of bee regards the plants they visit and pollinate. However there would be differences and preferences between the two honey bees towards crops/weeds resulting in reductions and gains in pollination depending on the species. An example is research by Partap et al (1998) found *A. cerana* better pollinators than EHB of peaches and plums in Nepal because of more hours foraging, a higher ratio of pollen to nectar collecting AHB than EHB and more flower visits per bee.

*A. cerana* are the only AHB that can be hived and manipulated by people and even some migratory beekeeping is done with this bee. They are very fickle and abscond readily as compared to European honey bees. Their colonies are generally smaller and as such would provide less bees to pollinate/hive. However they may do a better job at pollinating certain crops. A lot of work would be required to determine which bees would be best suited for which job, but one day perhaps the Asian bee will be hived and managed for specific pollination jobs. Honey yields for AHB, are also much less, generally around 3-10kg/year but can get up to 25kg. There is some breeding program trying to reduce absconding and increase honey yields of different sub species of AHB but with limited success without isolated mating. The javana sub species that's in Australia supposedly absconds more readily than sub species from the temperate regions of Asia.

### Varroa or tropilaelaps incursion

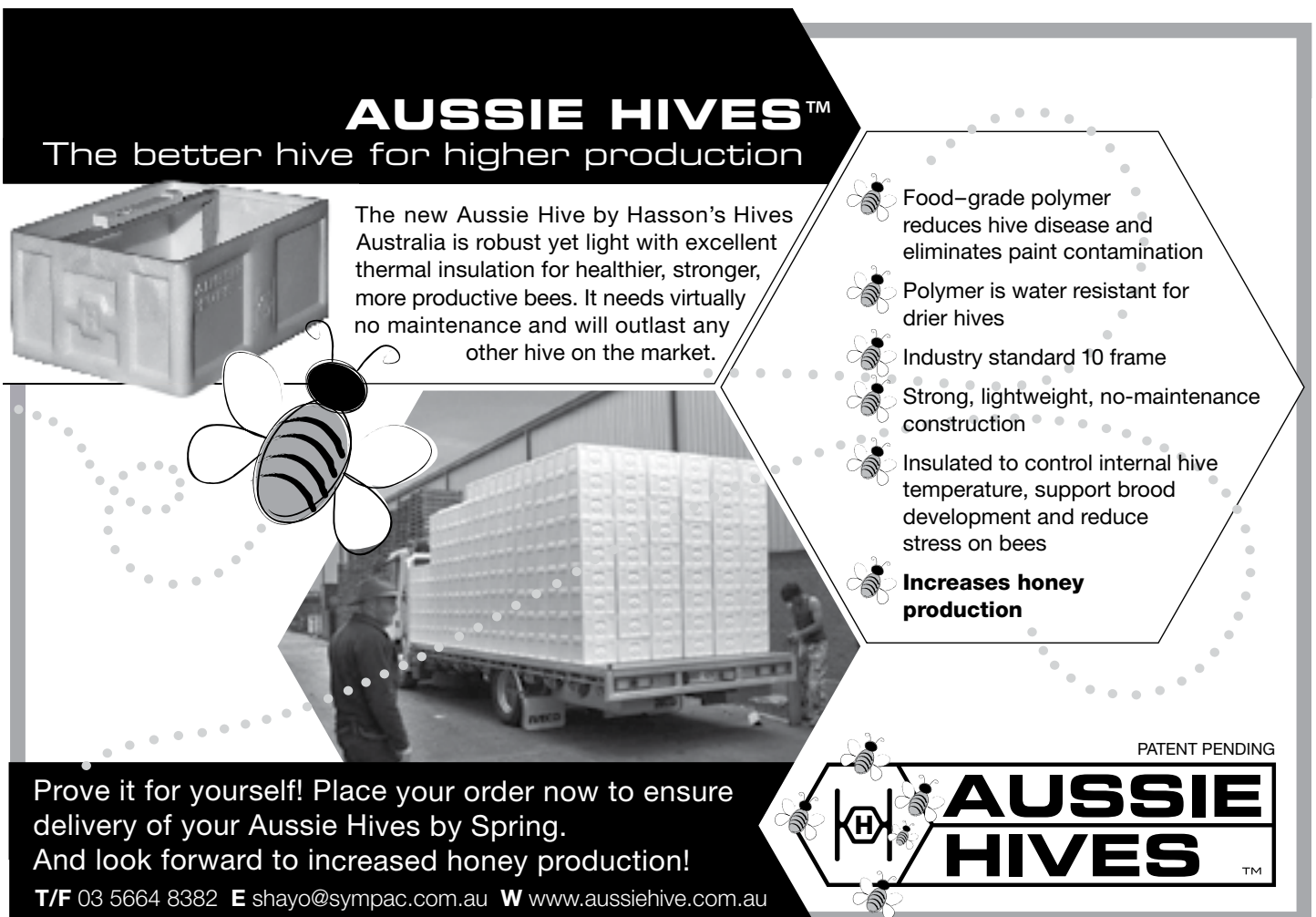
If AHB were to become endemic in Australia and varroa and tropilaelaps also came into the country, farmers who currently rely on incidental pollination from feral bees may greatly benefit from the presence of the AHB. The AHB co-evolved with varroa and survive quite happily with it. Varroa only breeds on the drone brood of its natural host. Tropilaelaps can not survive on *A. cerana*. Both these pests would result in the demise of feral EHBs probably resulting in AHB range extending with decreased competition from EHB.

So do we want this bee in Australia? I advocate **definitely not** even though it may be advantageous in some areas for pollination and even more so if varroa or tropilaelaps enters the country. But the dangers and threats of the potential unknowns to the environment and apiary industry defiantly supports a huge attempt to eradicate the AHB from Far North Queensland.

Lets hope they succeed.

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# CROP REPORT

## NORTHERN NSW

Honey production in the north of the State has been almost non-existent over the past three to four months. The January, February and March rain, as good as it was, came too late to set anything up for the autumn/winter.

The Channel country had a very mixed budding and has kept bees in good condition for spring. Honey production, however, has been very limited with some people not pulling honey off at all. At the time of writing bees are being shifted into Canola and even to Almond pollination.

Immediate honey prospects in the north are very limited apart from good Canola crops and some small patches of Grey Ironbark on the North Coast there is nothing of substance. Immediate rain may bring growth/bud on short term budders yet in recent years some of these trees (Brush Box, Silverleaf, Ironbark & Bloodwood in particular) have been very unreliable.

Beekeepers stocks are extremely low at present and I cannot see this changing at least until Christmas. Most of us have our fingers crossed.

*Craig Klingner*

## NORTH COAST

The prolonged rainy showery weather seems at last to be over. Strong bees on the Heath are gathering, with some starting swarm cells. The country that these days supports the Macadamia nut industry is about to start, with a few hives already there and doing well.

Red Gum has been flowering since May and bees there are moving ahead, helped by some early Grey Ironbark. There is some budding on later Ironbark but it is patchy. Last season it was also only a half budding but it yielded well. Hopefully this season will be the same.

*Geoff Manning*

## SOUTHERN NSW

Most bees went into the autumn on the end of Red Stringy Bark and Manna Gum. The bees wintered down well with good honey stores and pollen. The Almond pollination season isn't far away with some areas coming out in bloom and mass movement of bees heading south.

Recent good winter rain in the south, with prospects of Canola and Paterson's Curse is hopeful.

Unfortunately, with plague locust predictions; this shall be a huge concern for everyone, especially in the Western and Riverina areas from September 2010 to April 2011. Regular communication with farmers and Rural Lands Boards is advisable.

Patchy, out of season Yellow Box is flowering in the Southern Tablelands Region before it's beneficial for any honey production.

*Laurie Kershaw*

## SYDNEY BASIN

Excellent rain and a fairly mild winter have hives in backyards carrying drones all winter. That's a good sign that spring could see plenty of swarms. Wattles are set to provide plenty of pollen with patches of Forest Red Gum *E. tereticornis* well budded and set to flower in September-October. Beekeepers in the Sydney Basin can expect a good spring.

## CENTRAL WEST

Record planting of Canola with good winter rains associated with a good germination of Paterson's Curse should see beekeepers enjoy a good spring build up period.

*Bruce White*

# HONEY HEALS HORSES

*The Land - 8 July 2010*

MANUKA honey is set to become the front-line product in the fight to heal horse wounds according to new research conducted at the University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Camden.

Professor of equine veterinary science, Dr Andrew Dart, who led the research program, said because horses tended not to have the same initial inflammatory response as other species, their wounds often caused problems.

The two-year research program saw the team trial Unique Manuka Factor (UMF) 20 honey on skin wounds on horse legs.

The scale extends up to UMF 30 and reflects the antibacterial effects of the honey. UMF 10 honey and above is effective against most antibiotic resistant bacteria.

In the first stages of the research, Manuka honey was applied directly to leg wounds on horses. Because of the runny nature of honey, bandages were used to maintain contact between the honey and the wound.

"What we found was bandaging wounds for extended periods actually wasn't good for the wound," Professor Dart said.

The team then set about getting veterinary pharmaceutical manufacturer, Nature Vet, to develop the honey into a gel.

In the second part of the study they tested control wounds, pure UMF 20 Manuka honey-treated wounds for 13 days, honey/gel mixture treated wounds for 13 days, gel-treated wounds for 13 days, and honey/gel mixture treated wounds for seven weeks.

"The evidence of a positive effect on wound healing was consistent with all the honey products, but the honey gel mixture applied to open wounds for the duration of healing worked the best," Professor Dart said.

"Manuka honey reduces wound size during healing.

"In part this appears to be by enhancing the initial inflammatory reaction and producing a healthier bed of healing tissue."

This knowledge, and the eventual sale of the Manuka honey gel, could mark big changes for the horse industry.

"It's a major breakthrough for the industry," Professor Dart said.

"Nasty wounds on the lower legs are one of the most common problems for horse owners.

"We now have a product they can apply daily to enhance a horse's ability to heal these wounds.

"Professor Dart said ultimately that would allow horse owners to save on veterinary costs, and particularly bandages.

"You don't need to smear it on like honey on toast, just a small amount on the wound will do," he said.

Professor Dart said while the gel might not "cure every wound", just learning that leaving bandages on was not helping healing was a breakthrough in itself. The next step was to get the gel onto the market.

Manuka honey comes from the Manuka bush, a native to New Zealand. Professor Dart said its use in medicine dated back to ancient Egypt where it was mixed with animal fat and applied to wounds. It has re-emerged and become popular in hospitals with the advent of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

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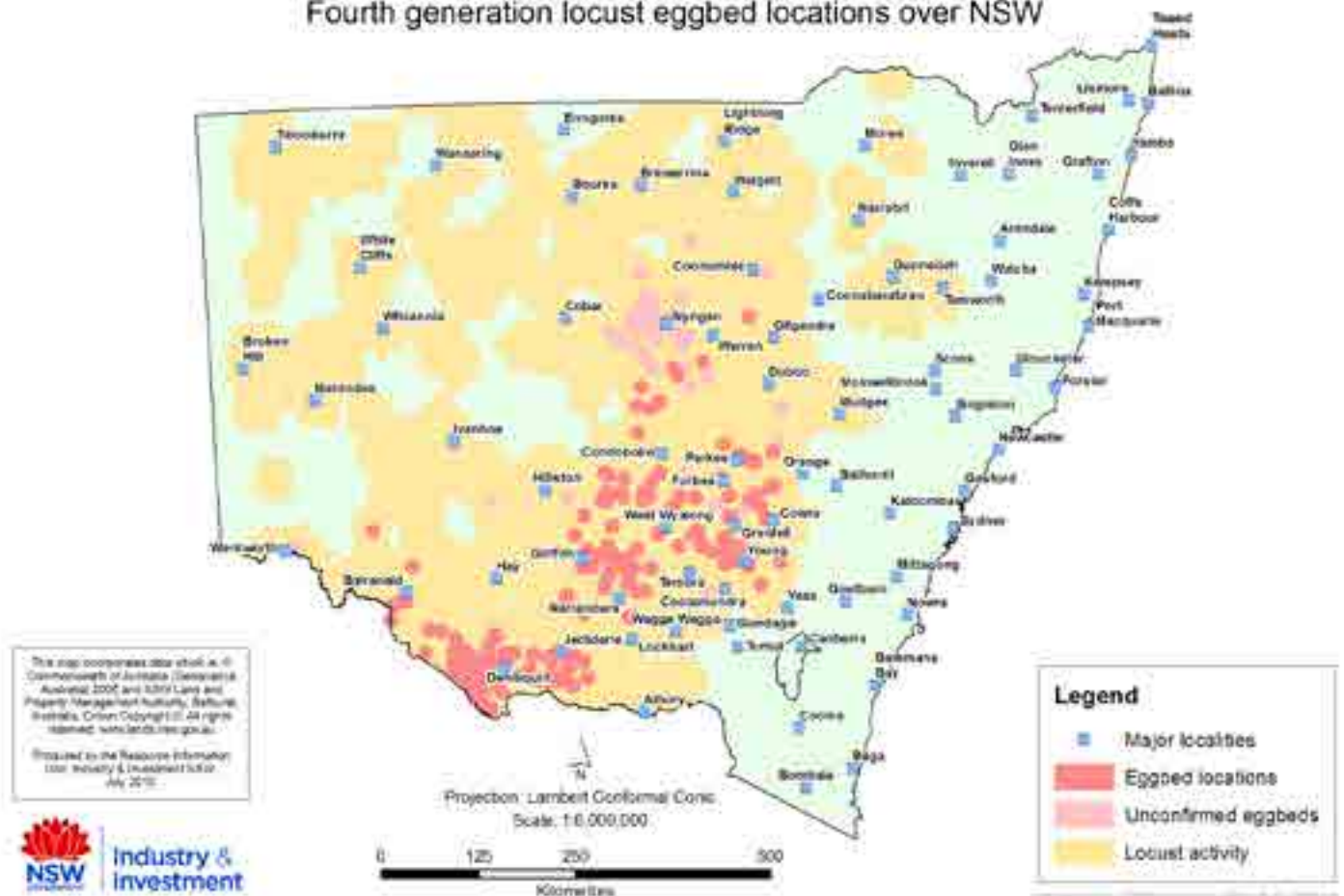
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219 Separation Street, Northcote, VIC

*Thinking beyond the package*



# AUSTRALIAN PLAGUE LOCUSTS ALERT

Fourth generation locust eggbed locations over NSW



Forecast development dates for indicative locations during spring 2010				
Location - NSW	Egg laying	Hatching	Mid-instar	Fledging
Brewarrina-Bourke	24 April	29 August	17 September	7 October
Tibooburra-Wanaaring	24 April	25 August	13 September	8 October
Broken Hill-Wilcannia	24 April	15 September	30 September	20 October
Ivanhoe-Hillston	16 April	21 September	6 October	26 October
Nyngan-Tottenham	24 April	20 September	5 October	26 October
Tullamore-Condobolin	16 April	3 October	19 October	7 November
Dubbo-Peak Hill	16 April	6 October	20 October	11 November
Parkes-Cowra	16 April	18 October	31 October	19 November
Forbes-West Wyalong	16 April	13 October	27 October	14 November
Hay-Balranald	16 April	5 October	19 October	7 November
Wagga-Cootamundra	16 April	25 October	6 November	26 November
Narrandera-Griffith	16 April	10 October	23 October	13 November
Jerilderie-Deniliquin	16 April	18 October	31 October	19 November
Location - Victoria	Egg laying	Hatching	Mid-instar	Fledging
Mildura-Ouyen	16 April	7 October	21 October	9 November
Swan Hill-Boort	16 April	16 October	29 October	17 November
Echuca-Bendigo	16 April	24 October	6 November	25 November
Shepparton-Tungamah	16 April	20 October	3 November	22 November
Nhill-Warracknabeal	16 April	24 October	8 November	26 November
Horsham-Stawell	16 April	30 October	12 November	1 December
Location - SA	Egg laying	Hatching	Mid-instar	Fledging
Marree-Lyndhurst	16 April	25 August	5 September	1 October
Andamooka-Roxby	16 April	28 August	8 September	4 October
Hawker-Orroroo	16 April	24 September	10 October	30 October
Port Augusta-Quorn	16 April	21 September	6 October	27 October
Renmark-Morgan	16 April	30 September	15 October	4 November
Pinnaroo-Karoonda	16 April	6 October	21 October	10 November
Keith-Bordertown	16 April	30 October	11 November	30 November
Kimba-Cowell	16 April	11 October	25 October	13 November
Location - QLD	Egg laying	Hatching	Mid-instar	Fledging
Thargomindah	16 April	24 August	10 September	3 October

Forecast dates in this table are based on development models for known or possible egg laying and assume sufficient soil moisture for development after diapause.

Dates are estimated from long term average temperatures and indicate the start of the majority of the population entering the life stage.

Any actual egg laying will vary from nominated dates and hatchings could extend for several weeks around these dates.

Expect some variation around these dates as temperature affects egg development rate and early hatchings have occurred in recent years.

This table will be updated regularly as actual temperatures recorded during late winter-early spring become available. Please check these web pages for updated forecast dates.

**Australian Plague Locust Commission:**  
<http://www.daffa.gov.au/animal-plant-health/locusts>

**I & I NSW Locust website:**  
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/insects/general/locusts>



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

\*\*\*The below sites are still vacant\*\*\*

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# NPWS VACANT BEE SITES

*Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) PO Box 1020, Dubbo NSW 2830 Ph: 02 6841 0900*

### Notification of vacant apiary sites within the Western Branch of the National Parks and Wildlife Service

Consistent with the Department's policy regarding vacant apiary sites (those sites surrendered, forfeited or subject to a cancelled Consent) the Association has been notified of the following vacant bee sites:

CCA Zone Name	Former State Forest Name	Site Number	Burnt Site*
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Pilliga East	1102	Burnt 10
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Pilliga East	1143	Burnt 10
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Pilliga East	1190	Burnt 10
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	14	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	15	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	38	
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1296	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1316	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1333	Burnt 10
Pilliga CCA Zone 1	Queqobla	441	
Pilliga CCA Zone 1	Dubbo	446	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	9	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	16	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	17	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	22	
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA Zone 1	Bebo	23	
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1292	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1293	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1313	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1314	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1331	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Denobollie	1350	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Orr	1359	Burnt 10
Pilliga CCA Zone 1	Queqobla	452	
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Orr	1460	
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Wittenbra	1541	Burnt 10
Timmallalie CCA Zone 1	Timmallalie	1485	Burnt 10
Goonoo CCA Zone 1	Goonoo	141	Burnt 10
Goonoo CCA Zone 1	Goonoo	109	
Pilliga CCA Zone 3	Pilliga NR	540	
Pilliga CCA Zone 3	Pilliga NR	575	
Pilliga CCA Zone 3	Pilliga NR	668	
Pilliga East	Goonoo	1266	
CCA Zone 1 Timmallalia	Wittenbra	1514	

\*Burnt sites are unproductive and can not be used and as such are subject to a fee reduction.

**Applications close on 1 October 2010** - All applicants must be registered beekeepers  
If there is more than one interested party, the Association will conduct a ballot.

**Applications can only be made in writing to:** The Secretary NSW Apiarists' Association Inc.  
PO Box 3018, Toongabbie East NSW 2146 - Fax: 02 9863 4338 - Email: [nswaa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nswaa@optusnet.com.au)

# VALE

## ROBERT FRASER (BOB) WEIR AM



*A pioneer of the Australian honey industry, Bob Weir passed away on 7 May 2010, 4 weeks short of turning 91.*

Bob was born in Inverell into an agricultural family with strong Scottish ancestor and when only a baby the family purchased the property "Rose Vale" at Dundee. Bob attended the Dundee Rail School but left when he was 12 ½ years old as times were tough in the depression years. He worked on the family farm along with his brother David. Bob also did much labouring on farms in the district in the way of shearing, crutching, fencing and trapping of rabbits all to help the family survive on the farm.

As Bob's skills quickly developed he became keenly interested in bees whilst falling timber for fencing. On horseback he would collect the swarms from trees and put them in sugar bags to carry them to his apiary. David also became interested and soon the Weir brothers had a growing apiary on "Rose Vale". Any spare pocket money from trapping rabbits was used to purchase bee material and the scarcity of suitable materials at the time made these boys very resourceful. Sections of kerosene boxes were used in making bee boxes. Moving the bees began with horse and dray and slowly they became mechanised with the purchase of a utility (of a kind).

During war time the honey industry was an essential service as the beeswax was needed to waterproof ammunition and military supplies. When David and Bob were called for army service, David was accepted but Bob was refused as he was unable to be fitted with boots so he joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

In the early 1940's Weirs purchased their first "real" truck, a second hand 1937 Bedford and the first major move for Bob was to Glen Elgin, 60kms away. Many more moving exercises followed. Bob recalled to Monte (his son in-law) that it took fourteen hours to travel with bees from the clover at Ulmarra up the Old Grafton Road to Dundee. This truck was one of very few in the district and consequently put to good use carting honey, wool and produce to and from the Dundee Railway Station for

many in the district as well as the family's needs. With petrol being scarce in war time Bob installed a charcoal gas producer on the Bedford which considerably reduced the power of the motor but allowed him to travel.

Bob's knowledge of trees was expanding and he became intensely interested in all forms of native vegetation which later led him to become a recognised authority especially on eucalypts. The first tractor in the district, the first to pasture improve with the application of superphosphate, the Weirs were also innovators in the beekeeping field with the introduction of queen excluders, carbolic acid hence a central extracting plant and the first hive loader in the area. Honey production complimented wool growing and other farm activities on "Rose Vale".

Bob was an Honorary Apiary Inspector with the NSW Department of Agriculture.

The marketing of honey was a huge challenge in the 1950's. Honey production was increasing for the Weir brothers and marketing became more difficult. Small jars of honey samples were taken to prospective buyers for possible sales, and there was no guarantee that a fair price would be offered let alone a purchase.

Tim and Bert Smith, producers and packers from Southport were also experiencing similar problems and following a chance meeting in 120 Forest at Inglewood with them, discussion commenced and following a number of meetings with other dependable honey producers a core group was formed and Capilano Apiaries Pty Ltd was registered in 1958.

Bob was a foundation shareholder and served as a Director for 25 years and Chairman for two years. During this time Capilano was expanding rapidly. Bob was a proud shareholder and always acknowledged and appreciated the commitment of not only the Board of Directors but also the loyal producer shareholders and owners of the company. He valued the contributions and friendship from each and everyone and never lost sight of his own humble beginnings in the industry. His thinking that standing still never got anyone anywhere made him always say "if you see an opportunity go for it". He also served as a Director of PDS for eight years.

Bob's contribution to the honey industry was acknowledged when he was made a Life Member of both the New South Wales Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) and the Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA). He was indeed a proud Life Member of both organisations and enjoyed attending their Annual Conferences as well as his local branch meetings right up to his passing. He loved to renew friendships, yarn about experiences he had shared with other beekeepers, welcome new innovations and discuss prospects for the coming season.

Bob was noted to be an excellent judge of honey and regularly judged at Australia's biggest honey competition RNA in Brisbane. In 1972 he was one of four judges of the 1,800 entries at the first Australian Bee Congress, under the auspices of Apimondia, held in Broadbeach, Queensland. In contrast, Bob's diverse experience and his judging skills were also used many times as a shearing judge at competitions throughout the New England. He was also an accomplished pianist and violinist.

Bob was an extraordinarily observant man with a great appreciation of the natural environment and had a passion to nurture our environment not only locally but across the

entire country. Bob had an endless thirst for answers for what he didn't know and was always happy to share his knowledge and love of Australia with anyone who sought it. He loved the bush, animals & birds and his eyes were constantly on the trees for prospective blossom for the bees. It never ceased to amaze him how intriguing and clever the bee was. A touching and hand written note he left when he died reads:

*"I have only gone to look for flowers for the bees"*

Bob was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2004 – *For service to the honey industry, to the development of sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management, and to the community of Glen Innes.*

Within his community Bob contributed enormously to many organisations. He was a Life Member of the Glen Innes Show Society having served as President and of the Showground Trust for many years. His commitment to his community continued in latter years as he was a foundation member and President of Probus and up until his death he was heavily involved in starting a Men's Shed in Glen Innes and helping to raise funds for the expansion of Karinya Homes.

In 2000 when Bob's wife Vivienne passed away after 53 years of marriage, Bob's faith in God, his family, friends and his many interests helped him. His beloved wife and family had always been an integral part of his life and he dearly loved them always taking an interest in what they were doing and always with a word of encouragement.

In 2007 Bob made the big decision to move to Glen Innes and leave his home on "Rose Vale" after 83 years. He moved to a unit at Karinya Homes where he continued to live independently. He made many new friends and was always available to help whenever help was needed. His open door policy remained and he enjoyed the company of many visitors over a cuppa and he will be sadly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Bob Weir was a gentle man and a gentleman.

It has been impossible to give a full account of Bob's life as it was so diverse.

*This article has been contributed by Bob's family upon request from the NSWAA.*

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# PORT SURVEILLANCE VITAL TO KEEPING AUSTRALIA FREE OF BEE PESTS

Australia is the only major honey-producing country free of the deadly bee pest Varroa mite, and a report released today highlights the importance of surveillance efforts around ports to keep it that way.

Future Surveillance Needs for Honeybee Biosecurity has confirmed the most likely way for exotic bee pests to reach Australian shores is hitching a ride in ships and their cargoes. It reviews current methods and provides a framework for assessing any proposed future surveillance systems against their cost.

Pollination services to agriculture are worth close to \$4 billion dollars, so even a 10 per cent cut in production as a result of pests or disease would result in losses in excess of \$350 million a year.

The report has been released by the Pollination Program, a research and development strategy jointly funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

Gerald Martin, the Chairman of the Pollination Program, says everyone agrees that surveillance is vital, but it comes at a price.

"You have to weigh up the likelihood of the pest getting in where you're watching; whether it can be detected fast enough to stop significant damage; what you can actually do once it's found; and the amount of damage versus the cost of surveillance," Mr Martin said.

"The Varroa mite is the bee pest considered most likely to reach Australia and create havoc if it does. The economic impact when it became established in North America in the 1980s is estimated to be up to US\$14.6 Billion.

"It's obvious from this report that biosecurity services such as AQIS are vital in protecting our borders and need to be backed up by the National Sentinel Hive Program and similar surveillance methods to prevent accidental migration of bees which may bring with them pests and diseases," Mr Martin said.

In developing the report, a number of experts were brought together for a one-day workshop, including Commonwealth, State and Industry representatives with experience with the honeybee or horticulture industries and skills in economics, modelling, risk assessment and bee pathology and biology.

"There was unanimous agreement that the use of sentinel hives at seaports was the most likely method to detect exotic bee mites quickly," Mr Martin said.

"These hives are set up close to ports and checked regularly for new bees as well as pests and diseases.

"The industry is keen to trial various options to complement the systems in place and we now have the basis for making accurate decisions on the economic merits of any other surveillance methods proposed in the future," Mr Martin said.

**Future Surveillance Needs for Honeybee Biosecurity is now available to download free from the Pollination page of the RIRDC website [www.rirc.gov.au](http://www.rirc.gov.au)**

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# RECIPES

## HONEY PRAWNS



3/4 cup self-raising flour  
1/4 teaspoon white pepper  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
canola oil, for deep-frying  
1/2 cup cornflour  
1kg green prawns, peeled, deveined, tails left intact  
1 tablespoon canola oil  
**1/3 cup honey**  
1 tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted (see note)

Sift flour and pepper into a large bowl. Stir in salt. Using a fork, beat 1 cup water and egg in a jug until well combined. Pour into flour, stirring to form a smooth batter.

Half-fill a saucepan with oil. Heat over medium-high heat. Place cornflour in a shallow dish. Lightly coat prawns in cornflour, shaking off excess. Holding by the tail, dip prawns, 1 at a time, into batter to coat. Carefully drop prawns, 4 or 5 at a time, in hot oil. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until golden. Transfer to a wire rack. Repeat with remaining prawns and batter.

Combine oil and honey in a frying pan over medium-low heat. Add prawns. Toss until well coated. Spoon onto plates. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. *Serves 4*

## HONEY SOY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS

125mls (1/2 cup) light soy sauce  
**80mls (1/3 cup) honey**  
1 lemon, juiced  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
12 chicken drumsticks

Preheat oven to 180°C. Combine soy sauce, honey, lemon juice and garlic in a bowl and mix well. Place the chicken drumsticks in an ovenproof dish in a single layer and pour the marinade over the top.

Cover the dish with foil and cook drumsticks in preheated oven for 45 minutes or until the juices run clear when the drumsticks are pierced in the thickest part. Turn the drumsticks and baste them with the marinade every 15 minutes. Serve with rice & steamed green vegetables or salad. *Serves 4-6*

## CHOCOLATE CRACKLES

200g dark chocolate, chopped  
100g butter  
**1/3 cup honey**  
4 cups puffed rice cereal

Place the chocolate, butter and honey in a saucepan over low heat and stir until melted and smooth. Place the cereal in a bowl with the chocolate mixture and mix well to combine. Spoon 2 teaspoons of the mixture into 48 small paper cases. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until set. *Makes 48*

# HOW TO COMBAT CYBER CRIME

*Source: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission*

## Warning signs

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- The website may contain spelling mistakes, use poor grammar, not appear to load up correctly, or contain faulty links.
- You may be pushed to provide personal information such as credit cards details.
- There might not be any legal information such as copyright statements or terms of use contained on the web page.
- If your computer has been infected, it may be slow to respond. Other signs that your computer has been infected include new desktop icons, new wallpaper, unfamiliar pop-ups or your internet browser default homepage being redirected to another site.

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- NEVER purchase a product online unless you can verify the seller's legitimacy.
- NEVER open attachments or click on links unless you can verify and trust the source/contents.
- NEVER assume that a website warning you that your computer is infected is telling the truth – virus warnings are designed to grab your attention and make you purchase without thinking.
- NEVER enter your personal, credit card or online account information or your mobile phone number on a website that you are not certain is genuine.
- If a product appears to be affiliated with a well-known product, ask yourself why it is available for sale from a different company.
- Research products – ask friends, conduct online searches including product forums, or read product-specific magazines.
- If you are not sure about the safety of a purchase, consider other options, eg anti-virus software can be purchased in computer shops.
- Avoid questionable websites – some may automatically download malicious software to your computer.
- It is important to keep your computer protected with the latest anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and to use a good firewall – just make sure the products are authentic.
- If you think your computer has been infected, you may need to have the computer checked.

# HPMAA AHBIC Report – June 2010

The Honey Packers and Marketers have pursued the best intentions of both the packers and the Australian apicultural industry during the last 12 months in the representative roles on AHBIC, other bodies and with governments. The packers note there are many challenges ahead in this continually changing world we operate in.

Looking at the year past I can comment:

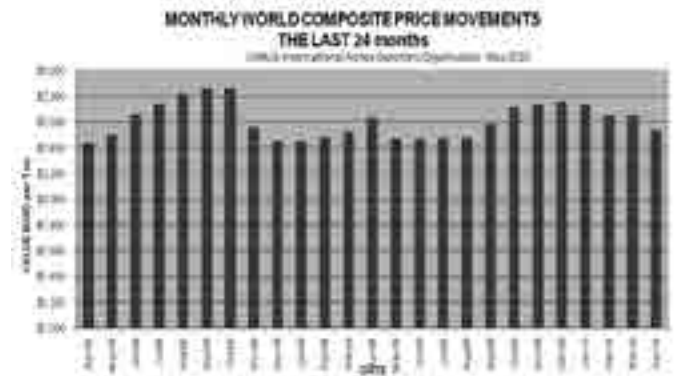
- All honey packers found it difficult in honey supply for the first half of the financial year due to poor honey production conditions in Australia. The period from January to June 2010 has seen much improved stock levels being available.
- In Australia the volume of honey sold via the three mainstream supermarkets of Coles, Woolworths and Metcash(IGA) increased 3.6% during 2009 (*Source: Retail World January 2010*). The likes of Aldi, Costco and others do not report into this system so volume variations are unknown although it may be fair to assume a similar trend in their stores.
- Increased demands have been imposed on all packers and some have seen losses of ranged products. Pressure continues on margins achievable for packers with the unabated push on private labels by the big three retail groups.
- Major packers are incurring increased testing, QA and auditing costs which are being imposed on their businesses. While all this is happening there seems to be no abatement in the number of beekeepers selling direct (often at low values).
- From an import and export perspective the following can be seen as occurring over the last three years;

AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ANALYSIS							
Period	Combined Imports Tonnes	Combined Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports Tonnes	Bulk Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports %	Bulk Exports Tonnes
Mar-10	692	1,589	460	1,129			
Dec-09	1,294	2,354	1,086	1,268			
Sep-09	1,636	3,556	751	2,805			
Jun-09	1,292	2,086	710	1,376			
Total	4,914	9,585			3,007	31%	6,578
Mar-09	522	2,143	1,055	1,000			
Dec-08	661	2,103	1,088	1,015			
Sep-08	1,480	1,755	1,066	689			
Jun-08	1,748	1,799	1,020	779	4,229	54%	3,483
Total	4,411	7,800					
Mar-08	1,355	1,362	602	759			
Dec-07	332	1,391	676	714			
Sep-07	790	1,208	558	632			
Jun-07	151	1,320	672	648	2,508	47%	2,753
Total	2,628	5,281					

The numbers will change in imports and exports in the next 12 months as supply increases and as we see the effect of the major packer exiting unprofitable markets. The AUD currency exchange value will also impact how the import verse's export numbers will evolve over time.

- World bulk export prices have held reasonably steady over the last two years however the last three months we have seen a weakness downward occurring. Based on current values being paid to Australia beekeepers we cannot be commercially competitive to move any volume. While a few sales are being made overall nothing occurs unless it is a speciality product like Jarrah or the exchange rate drops substantially. Industry should not be surprised if prices fall based

on supply reports to hand. International buyers need cheap product as they in turn are being squeezed by their customers to supply the very best quality at budget values. This situation does the industry no good worldwide as it is not sustainable for all.



- Unintentional residues in honey and beeswax remain a major concern to all.
- Packers should be aware of the national implementation by the Commonwealth to take full responsibility, including funding, for the national trade measurement system, from 1 July 2010. This will bring in the introduction of the Average Quantity System (AQS) for packers as an additional method of calculating target weights.
- Changes to the food act and labelling are also in process. Greater chances for prosecution will follow.

On an AHBIC level over the last year, packer delegates have contributed on industry's behalf in the following areas:

- International market access issues (duties, barriers, demands etc);
- Residue contamination issues (potential PA's, pesticides, antibiotics etc);
- Labelling standards;
- Honey import standards;
- Exporter Honey contamination issue;
- Supported a per hive statutory levy to replace all existing statutory honeybee industry levies;
- AHBIC readiness plan;
- AHBIC constitutional changes;
- AHBIC funding;
- AQIS - what to do in respect of prescribed and non-prescribed goods, what the current market issues where, what was to happen in relation to EXDOC and ER, trade access etc.;
- Support for the amalgamation of Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia;

The above is just a snapshot of some issues our association has been proactive in over the last 12 months.

Honey Packers believe in having a peak industry body the nature of the current AHBIC that represents ALL sectors of industry. Up to this date it has been the packers that have funded AHBIC and unless some sort of mandatory hive levy comes into play I am sure that we - The HONEY PACKERS – will be the ones asked to support it.

**Eduard Planken – President HPMAA**

# VALE

## JOHN GUILFOYLE

Several of the Management Committee of the Queensland Beekeepers Association attended John Guilfoyle's funeral on 16 June 2010. John had passed away the previous week. There was a good sprinkling of beekeepers at the funeral with some coming from as far away as Western Australia.

John was born at Yarraman, Queensland in 1920. His early beekeeping was influenced by Owen Barnes, Roy Barnes's father.

In 1942 he went to Melbourne for the Melbourne Cup and stayed and worked for his mother's relations, the Wills, who had a small apiary and small manufacturing plant. On his return to Brisbane, John had decided to go into commercial beekeeping. As he found he was buying beekeeping equipment, John decided to rent a shed at Red Hill and started making beekeeping equipment. This was 1944.

John borrowed 38 pounds from his future wife, brought his first electric motor, built the saw bench by hand and inserted an advertisement in The Telegraph newspaper. The next day they received five (5) replies to that advertisement and the rest, as they say, is history.

John married his wife, Alice, not long after this and they bought some industrial land at Newmarket, a Brisbane suburb, and built a factory there. An advertisement in the Australasian Beekeeper (ABK) in September, 1946, showed the address as 22 Musgrave Rd, Red Hill and an advertisement in the ABK in June 1950, showed the address was 146-148 Edmonstone St, Newmarket.

A new and bigger premises was built at Boundary Rd., Darra in 1959 and this was the site until a couple of years ago when the site was sold. New sheds were built at Mutdapilly, south west of Ipswich and a retail store was purchased at Inala.

In 1961, John went to America and worked for Dadant where he learnt foundation making and beeswax technology. He applied this knowledge on his return to Australia.

John was responsible for establishing branches of his business in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. John was an avid traveller visiting beekeepers around the world. At conferences, John, jokingly, was often welcomed back to Australia as he had been overseas for so long.

In his travels overseas, John would visit Apimondia every second year. For many years John was Australia's representative on Apimondia. John was responsible and President for the First Australian Bee Congress held on the Gold Coast in 1972 and was on the Organizing Committee for the second Australian and International Bee Congress held at the Gold Coast in 1988.

John was a life member of the Queensland Beekeepers Association and was a recipient of the Goodacre Memorial Award.

This is only a short extract in the life of John Guilfoyle who had contributed much to the beekeeping industry in Australia.

*Trevor Weatherhead*

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Executive Director: Mr Stephen Ware

### AHBIC NEWS

Excerpts from June & July updates

#### NEW AHBIC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Lindsay Bourke - Chairman  
Mr Ed Planken Deputy - Chairman  
Mr Ian Stephens - HPMAA  
Mr Ken Gell - VAA  
Mr Trevor Weatherhead - QBA  
Mr Trevor Morgan - Capilano Honey

#### AHBIC RESOLUTIONS

Set out below are the resolutions passed at the AGM other than those of a procedural nature.

1. That all groups currently represented in the Constitution, as affiliated associations only have one vote. (*Carried over till next AGM - Constitutional Resolution*)
2. That the Executive Director be asked to work with the Food, Safety & Residue Prevention Committee to process the issue of honey orders under the Export Control Act.
3. That AHBIC work to seek changes to the Imported Food Programme to ensure that AFB spores not present in Australia be prevented from being imported.
4. That AHBIC seek alternate methods of funding for Emergency Animal Response Deed Arrangements and maintenance of the Animal Health Australia Contingency Fund.
5. That the Executive Director seeks clarification from AHA in respect of the \$4,000 in consulting fees and query the cost of audit of the Contingency Fund.
6. That the AHBIC Executive for 2010/2011 be:

Lindsay Bourke	Chair	
Ed Planken	Deputy Chair	1 year term
Ken Gell		2 year term
Trevor Weatherhead		2 year term
Ian Stephens		1 year term
Trevor Morgan		1 year term
7. That AHBIC look at the current restrictions in the protocol of importing Queen Bees into Japan with the view of them being taken to the WTO in respect of *Nosema Apis*.
8. That AHBIC seek that the RIRDC research and prepare a booklet continuing a complete list of chemicals including RT25 measurements that affect bees and beekeeping in Australia.
9. That AHBIC request RIRDC to instigate research into the effect of neonicotinoids in Australian conditions, e.g. seed dressings, in irrigation, and all spray methods of application and usage on both young and adult bees including any residual time and report back to beekeepers as a matter of urgency.
10. That AHBIC seek assistance from the Federal Government for better protection by law from the effects of agricultural and horticultural chemicals.
11. That AHBIC where appropriate seek to consult with the relevant industry sectors before important decisions are made affecting that sector.
12. That through AHBIC Australia immediately implements a provisional ban on the importation of Honey & Bee products from New Zealand on the basis it may contain unwanted viruses and impediments to the Australian apicultural industry due to New Zealand's unproven freedom status.
13. That as Chinese honey in particular is subject to

ongoing residue breaches in the international market, that any honey entering Australia from that origin be subject to an expanded range of testing for Antibiotic and Pesticide residues along with a adulteration tests on each and every individual sea container lot that enters Australia. Additionally that the "Honey" in analysis has the complete complement of natural sugars to prove the product has not been tampered with to avoid the law on rejection.

14. That all National Industry conferences be held within a 25km radius of the capital city in which it is held to better facilitate attending invited speakers and interstate guests. (*Left to lay on table*)
15. That AHBIC look into preventing the importation of honey that is produced under systems which are not equivalent to our current domestic production requirements.
16. That AHBIC pursue the development of a potential external hive beetle trap.
17. That the AHBIC Executive investigates the benefits to some form of association with the National Farmers Federation.
18. That AHBIC continue to work on access protocol for Queen Bees and Package Bees in the following markets: Korea, USA, Canada & Japan.
19. That AHBIC ask RIRDC to investigate what strains of AFB are present in Australia.
20. That AHBIC address the issue of reopening the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station for queen bees as a matter of urgency to facilitate the importation of queens.
21. That if it is necessary to re-locate the quarantine facility, AQIS be asked to approach the Wheen Foundation regarding the possibility of using their site on the outskirts of Sydney.
22. That AHBIC explore the ways to collect honey levies from all beekeepers regardless of size and production.
23. That AHBIC ask RIRDC to update and do an on demand printing of the books *Beekeeping* and *Honey Flora of Victoria*.
24. That AHBIC prepare a document outlining new funding proposals to be distributed to all registered beekeepers in Australia.
25. That AHBIC continue to pursue the eradication of *Apis cerana* in Cairns QLD.
26. That AHBIC continue to pursue Apiary Market Access to all potential export markets.
27. That AHBIC continue to investigate and increase preparedness in respect of Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs).
28. That as a matter of priority AHBIC seeks continuation of funding for matching R & D through RIRDC.
29. That in principle AHBIC supports the development of a CRC bid in the honeybee pollination area.
30. That the year 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council be held in South Australia.
31. That the various associations funded the attendance of their delegates for the 2011 Conference.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council it gives me great pleasure to present the 2009/10 annual report.

I would like to pass on my thanks to my fellow Executive Committee who have worked hard this year on your behalf – Paula Dewar, Ed Planken, Bill Weiss, Ian Stephens, Ian Zadow, Trevor Morgan and Warren Jones. We welcome the



new Executive Committee and look forward to a busy and fruitful year ahead. A special thanks also to the efforts of HBRDC, Des Cannon, Bruce White, Dr. Ben Oldroyd and Dr. Denis Anderson for their support and dedication during the year. I have detailed below some important issues that AHBIC has been involved with during the year:

#### **Asian Bee Incursion in Cairns**

Surveillance and eradication of the Asian Honey Bee in Cairns continues. There are fortnightly telephone hook-ups at which the latest developments are discussed and the information relayed to industry via our AHBIC newsletters. Recently the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) agreed to a cost sharing agreement where the Governments, i.e. State, Federal and Territories pay 80% and industry 20%.

#### **AQIS Imported Food Program**

AQIS continues to test imported honey on arrival for the presence of residues. AHBIC has consulted regularly over the past year with AQIS to ensure our border protection for imports remain stringent and that imported honey does not pose a quality risk.

#### **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

As you may be aware, Greenpeace brought the issue of GMOs and honey to the attention of the media last season, after they stole honey from hives in Victoria and made allegations that they had confirmed the presence of GMO DNA, likely to have been detected from concentrated pollen. AHBIC provided an immediate media response and a management strategy to ensure the public remained informed of the real issues surrounding honey and GMOs and to ensure the quality and safety of Australian honeys.

#### **Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs) in Honey**

Following the German Honey Industry concerns over the occurrence of PAs in honey worldwide, AHBIC has drawn approximately 200 samples of Australian honey from packers for PA testing. This will give us a better understanding of the occurrence of PAs in Australian honey.

#### **Issues for the Future - R & D Funding**

AHBIC is currently responding to calls for submissions on the future of Federal Government support for R&D funding and over the next few months AHBIC will work in your interests to protect our ongoing R&D arrangements.

#### **Meeting with AQIS**

AHBIC has scheduled a Canberra meeting with AQIS and FSANZ in July to discuss a number of issues through AHBIC's Food Safety & Prevention of Residues Committee (FSPRC) (Ben McKee, Ed Planken and Dawn Smith). They will also be pushing for a provisional ban

on imported honey and bee products from New Zealand; all shipments of Chinese imported honey to be subject to antibiotic, pesticide and adulteration testing and that imported honey be prevented from entering Australia if it is not produced under the same systems that Australian beekeepers must adhere to.

I would like to thank all sectors of our industry for their support in what has been an extremely difficult year. AHBIC has had a hectic year with the AHBIC restructuring and the review of our Constitution and hopefully the changes that have been implemented will allow AHBIC to operate more effectively for the benefit of all industry members. Despite the challenges we look forward with optimism to the future.

**Lindsay Bourke**  
Chairman

#### **2010 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Dr Doug Somerville was awarded the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council's Award of Excellence at the Annual General Meeting held in Ipswich on 18 June.

The Award of Excellence is presented annually for outstanding services to the industry.

I think all will agree that Doug is a very worthy recipient serving the industry in many ways.

We sincerely thank him for his support.



*Dr Doug Somerville receiving his award  
from Mr Lindsay Bourke, AHBIC Chairman*

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# SMALL HIVE BEETLE DISCOVERED IN HAWAII

The small hive beetle has been discovered in hives near Hilo, adding another threat to Hawaii's honey industry and exportation of queen bees, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

On April 27, a beekeeper on a Pana'ewa farm contacted the agriculture department's entomologist in Hilo about beetles he found in the hives that he was maintaining for the farm owner, agriculture officials said. Samples of the beetles were confirmed as small hive beetles on April 30 by the US Department of Agriculture's National Identification Service in Riverdale, Md.

Adult and larval stages of the beetles have been found at two sites. Surveys in West Hawaii, where the majority of the queen bee operations are located, will begin today, agriculture officials said. Agriculture officials have activated the Incident Command System, which is widely used for other emergency responses, to manage this pest emergency.

"The Small Hive Beetle will be difficult to eradicate and control because it also feeds on various decaying fruits which are abundant in the wild," said Neil Reimer, manager of the Plant Pest Control Branch. "We are working with the US Department of Agriculture to develop a queen bee certification procedure that would allow for the continued export of clean queen bees to foreign and domestic areas."



# NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL

The New South Wales Apiarists' Association has been advised by the Tribunal that a Native Title Determination, Application Number NSD912/2009, has been made to the Federal Court by the Wellington Valley Wiradjuri People.

The external boundary of this application covers the towns of Orange, Wellington and Mudgee and is located north of Bathurst, south of Dubbo and east of Parkes. Not all land within the external boundary is claimed. For example, freehold land is excluded. Maps of the area are available for viewing at the Sydney registry of the National Native Title Tribunal and in the offices of local councils that are within the application area.

If a person or organisation with an interest wants to respond and become a party to this matter, they should write to the District Registrar of the Federal Court, Level 17, Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney, NSW, 2000 **on or before 29 September 2010.**

For more information on Native Title your may wish to visit their website: [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au) or for specific information about this application call the case manager, Ms Nicole Maher on 02 9235 6342, freecall 1800 640 501 or Email: [nicole.maher@nntt.gov.au](mailto:nicole.maher@nntt.gov.au)



*Beechworth Honey and Capilano Honey Stands at the Good Food & Wine Show held in Sydney 16-18 July 2010*

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9.00am	Welcome by MC
9.15am	Manipulating a beehive for beginners - Nick Annand & Dr Doug Somerville NSW Industry & Investment <i>(Last year the "duo" act with two hives at once went especially well)</i>
10.30am	Selecting combs for extraction Combined presentation by members of the Hunter Valley Branch of the NSW Apiarists' Association and the Amateur Beekeepers' Association
11.00am	Morning tea
11.30am	Making mead - Ron Irving
12 noon	Diseases: What to do when one is found
1.00pm	Lunch (Bring your own)
2.00pm	Small Hive Beetle traps Combined presentation by members of the Hunter Valley Branch of the NSW Apiarists' Association and the Amateur Beekeepers' Association
2.30pm	Honey & Pollen Flora - Dr Doug Somerville
3.15pm	Question & Answer

# THE SOUTHERN TABLELANDS BRANCH OF NSWAA

*All beekeepers are invited to attend a General Meeting  
at the Hotel Queanbeyan, 59 Crawford Street,  
Queanbeyan on 30 October 2010 to start at 3.00pm*

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

**VARROA AND ITS TREATMENTS**

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

- **Dr Denis Anderson**, Principal Research Scientist (Bee Pathologist) CSIRO. Denis will give a power point presentation on the latest developments with Varroa. It is envisaged to be worthy of your attendance as it is difficult to get someone of Denis's expertise to lecture about his research.
- **Dr Doug Somerville** of Industry and Investment NSW, will speak on the approved methods to treat Varroa.
- **Jeremy Pigott** – Manager of Steritech, will give a rundown on the advantages of sterilization of beekeeping equipment, along with the company's new requirements from the beekeepers.
- ST Branch Resource Officer, **Brett Bingley** will demonstrate how Steritech want hives delivered to them, and the effects sterilised material have on the bees.
- A spokesperson (TBA) from NSW Farmers' Federation will speak on their role to beekeepers.

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Secretary: Bill Stratton Ph: (02) 4421 4198  
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## THE NORTH COAST BRANCH

The North Coast Branch Manned an information stand at the Primex Agricultural Field Days held in Casino in June.



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