



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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Volume 2 Number 6

November - December 2009



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AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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

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COVER: Gretchen Wheen & Sue Cobey at the Artificial Insemination Course (photo Doug Somerville)

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- Wesfarmers Federation Insurance: Leigh Layden, Phone: 02 4822 4711 Mobile: 0438 224 711 Email: leigh.layden@wfi.wesfarmers.com.au
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Season

Conditions throughout New South Wales are dry, with 80% of the State in drought.

Beekeepers are becoming extremely anxious to find conditions which will give some honey. I feel that if good general falls of rain do not occur in the next few weeks, many beekeepers will find difficulty having hives in condition to go into winter.

Honey Prices

Honey prices are remaining firm, with packers resisting increasing prices. There are increasing volumes of 'honey' being offered from China at low prices \$1.60 - \$1.80 per kg and being blended with Australian honey. This 'honey' is believed to be a syrup, made in Chinese factories. If importation of this product is allowed to continue it will reduce the sustainability of Australian beekeepers, meaning in future years they may not be able to access enough honeybees to complete pollination.

Stocks of honey are very low with packers chasing honey wherever they can find it. Stocks held by beekeepers are low to very low, with prospects quite minimal.

AI Course

As I write this report the NSW Apiarists' Association is holding an Artificial Insemination Course 8-16 December, at the newly renovated teaching laboratory at Gretchen Wheen's property at Richmond, Western Sydney. The venue was prepared for the course with the generous help of Warren Taylor from Australian Queen Bee Exporters. Warren also assisted by supplying Virgin Queens and Drones.

Eight people attended the Introductory Course from 8-11 December with most becoming quite proficient as AI technicians under expert instruction from Sue Cobey from Davis University, California. We are privileged to have Sue as the instructor. Sue is a renowned bee breeder and geneticist having taught beekeepers worldwide. A further six people will attend the Advanced Course 14-16 December.

Honeybee Genetics and Breeding Seminar

On Saturday 12 December over 100 people, many flying in from interstate specifically for the day, attended the Seminar at the University of Western Sydney. Many eminent speakers gave presentations on breeding and research projects designed to assist the Industry in future years. Much of the focus was on beekeepers selecting and breeding the fittest bees to best address pests and disease in the future.

The Wheen foundation

The Wheen Foundation has been created as a result of a generous bequest from well-known honeybee identities, Gretchen and the late Frank Wheen. Its broad purpose is to support research, development and training which will benefit beekeepers and pollination dependent industries.

The Foundation was officially launched by Mr Alby Schultz MP on Saturday 12 December. The Foundation consists of Gretchen's beautiful 18 acre property fronting the Nepean River, a well equipped laboratory and other facilities which Gretchen wishes to be used by the Honeybee Industry to further research in order to ensure the future of the Industry. In time, there will be small conference facilities and some limited accommodation to support the activities of the Foundation. This is indeed a generous gift and one for which Industry must be forever grateful.

On behalf of all beekeepers I wish to convey the words "Thank you Gretchen".

Goodacre Award

During the Seminar Mr Max Whitten was presented with the Goodacre Award.

Max is a person who has given much of his time and effort in helping the Honeybee Industry although not being directly involved with our Industry.

Max is also a Founding Director and Member of the Wheen Foundation along with Gretchen, Linton Briggs and Colin Powell.

Congratulations Max, thank you for your dedication to the Honeybee Industry.

Dates for 2010

Sydney Show 1-14 April – mark these dates on your calendar as we will be looking for volunteers to work at the Show which this year will include for the first time a National Honey Show.

New South Wales Annual State Conference in Port Macquarie on 20-21 May.

Seasons Greetings

As I come to the end of this report, Christmas is fast approaching so may I extend the best wishes of the State Executive to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

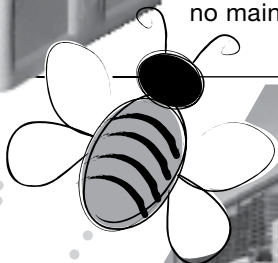
Bill Weiss
State President







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MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our readers, contributors and advertisers.

Thank you for your support throughout the year and our best wishes for a Happy New Year.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Russell Brown	Cabrita
R W Buckland	Bowral
Fr Macarius Eriksen	Bombala
Bill Gooley	Burra
Ian Langworthy	Narooma
Heidi Smart	Kangaroo Valley

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Noel & Barbara Bingley celebrated 50 years of marriage on the 5 December 2009

Family and friends gathered at a party in Queanbeyan to wish them well.



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CONGRATULATIONS DR MICHAEL HORNITZKY



Dr Michael Hornitzky has just been promoted to the highest position a Scientist can achieve in the public service – Senior Principal Research Scientist.

Michael has always been devoted to assisting the beekeeping industry in the research area, having first been introduced to honeybees in 1977.

To achieve this position Michael has had extensive, consistent and substantial published articles in peer reviewed journals that have been acknowledged to have a high international impact as well as formal recognition by professional peers on outstanding research and development results.

His research outcomes have contributed in a significant manner to the public good and his scientific creativity and leadership have brought demonstrable and substantial outcomes which have led to the achievement of the department's strategic goals.

Michael has always carried out practical research that has benefited all beekeepers. He is an outstanding public speaker that beekeepers find easy to understand and is always helpful.

Congratulations Michael – well done, your research has contributed to making many beekeeping businesses more viable.

Bruce White

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VALE

Florence Marie McIntyre

17 April 1914 – 22 November 2009

Aged 95 Years

Flo was born to Robert and Lena Simcox at Camberwell in 1914. She was the eldest of two sisters, Roma and Jean, and one brother, Bob.

Flo first met her husband, Clements, when she was 15 years old; Clem three years her senior. This was the beginning of a seven-year courtship, with Clem living and working in Rainbow, and Flo doing the same in Melbourne.

Clem was the son of a beekeeper, and followed his father's footsteps in the craft. After the pair married, they lived on a family farm for a while, before purchasing two acres of land at Clayton Road in Melbourne, where they made their home for a decade.

In 1949, Clem was working the bees in the Big Desert, and hence spent quite a lot of time away from home. Eventually, Clem built a caravan for his family to live in, and Flo, along with their three children – Margaret, Jean and Bill – moved to be with him.

The caravan was positioned behind the township of Rainbow and the three children soon made fast friends with their neighbourhood peers.

Due to the fluctuating bee industry, Clem and Flo moved around, spending time at both Bealiba

and Jeparit, before selling their Melbourne home and permanently moving to the friendly Rainbow district.

The family lived at Rainbow for 11 years, during which time Flo was a member of the Country Women's Association. To speak of Clem's service to the VAA, is also to speak of just how hard Flo worked.

Clem held the positions of:

Assistant Secretary (1932)
Assistant Editor (1932)
Treasurer (1933-42)
Editor (1933-42 and 1955-59)
President (1952-53 and 1956-57)

Clem and Flo left Victoria in 1959 and headed for Sydney, where Clem had taken a job as the Secretary for the Commercial Apiarists' Association of New South Wales. As was her practice, Flo worked with Clem and later became Assistant Secretary in her own right for the Association.

Although the pair was very busy while in Sydney, they also remained loyal members of the VAA, with regular visits to the Annual Conferences in Victoria and in South Australia.

Both Flo and Clem were awarded Life Memberships of the Commercial Apiarists' Association of NSW. Flo was the first woman ever in NSW to receive this prestigious award. They were also made Honorary Members of the South Australian Apiarists' Association.

Sadly, Clem's health deteriorated as he battled a serious heart condition, and in 1986, while the pair was visiting their son, Bill, in Portland, Clem passed away.

Flo returned to their home in Sydney, before moving to Kelso, where she renewed contacts with many of the local Bathurst beekeepers, most of whom she kept in touch with for the rest of her years.

Eventually, Flo moved to Lake Boga to live in her "Granny flat" on her daughter, Jean's, property. She loved being close to the family, and regularly wrote to or phoned everybody she couldn't see on a regular basis.

In 2003, Flo was made a Life Member of the VAA. In April last year, Flo made the move to Wharparilla Lodge in Echuca, where she could relax and take a well-earned break.

Flo lived 95 years of loving and giving freely of herself, wherever she could, before peacefully passing away in November, 2009.

The NSW Apiarists' Association extend their sincere condolences to all Flo's family. We thank her daughter Jean Lowe for supplying this obituary.

DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

Technical Specialist, Honeybees - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn
doug.somerville@industry.nsw.gov.au



NEW “PESTS & DISEASES OF HONEY BEES” COURSE

Free to primary producers, but only up until May 2011.

The Australian Government has put aside \$26.5 million for FarmReady Reimbursement Grants. These grants are available for individual primary producers to attend approved climate change training activities.

We were able to get the new “Pests & Diseases of Honey Bees” course listed as an approved climate change training activity.

The FarmReady grants are one of the strategies the Australian Government have established to assist primary producers to adapt and respond to climate change. Up to \$1,500 will be available to cover course fees each financial year, with funding also available to cover excess travel, accommodation and childcare costs.

Funding to attend FarmReady approved training courses is not means or asset tested. To be eligible for the FarmReady Reimbursement Grant, you must be:

- a primary producer;
- an immediate family member of a primary producer (18+ yrs);
- a member of the management team of a primary production enterprise; or
- an indigenous land manager.

To find out about other courses available under the FarmReady program, visit www.farmready.gov.au or phone 1800 087 670.

The “Pests & Diseases of Honey Bees” course, at this stage, is the only course specifically for the management of honey bees eligible for the FarmReady grants.

How much money can you access under the grant?

Eligible participants can receive up to \$1,500 (per person) each financial year to cover the cost of approved training activities and up to \$500 per person per year to support associated expenses such as excess travel (over 150 km from home), accommodation and childcare.

What you need to do:

- Find a date and location for the course that suits you.
- Register and pay the course fee to Industry & Investment NSW.
- Lodge a FarmReady funding approval application form with FarmReady at least five working days before the course date.
- Attend the course – keep your receipts.
- Receive a course completion certificate from the course.
- Submit a claim for reimbursement within 30 days of the course date.

The contact number in NSW is Freecall 1800 628 422 or email simone.fuller@industry.nsw.gov.au for more details on FarmReady courses, and information on obtaining your grant within NSW.

COURSE DETAILS

We have planned 12 courses for NSW in 2010. Each course will be two days in duration. Lunch will be provided, unless otherwise stated. The cost will be \$465 for the course fee. Doug Somerville (Technical Specialist Honey Bees) and Nick Annand (Apiary Officer) will be the course presenters.

The dates and locations of the 2010 courses will be:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Sydney	16-17 February
Goulburn	18-19 February
Tamworth	9 -10 March
Glen Innes	11-12 March
Dubbo	20-21 April
Bathurst	22-23 April
Grafton	17-18 August
Lismore	19-20 August
Griffith	14-15 September
Wagga Wagga	16-17 September
Kempsey	19-20 October
Total	21-22 October

To book your spot in one of these courses, contact Kim Griffith, Short Course Secretary, Tocal College – Ph: 1800 025 520, or email kim.griffith@industry.nsw.gov.au.

The exact venues, in some cases, are yet to be finalised but the general location should not change. There will be restrictions on numbers at each course. We will not accept more than 20 participants at each course, thus, if you are interested I suggest you book early for your chosen location and date to avoid disappointment.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The course is designed to cover three national competency standards:

- FDFOPTISP2A – Implement sampling procedures
– Certificate II level competency
- RTE3415A – Manage pests and disease within a honey bee colony
– Certificate III level competency
- RTE3407A – Identify and report unusual disease or plant pest signs
– Certificate III competency

The course aim is:


- For each participant to be able to monitor for, identify and manage the major domestic pests and diseases of honey bees to minimise their impact. To promote awareness and surveillance for the exotic pests and diseases threatening the Australian beekeeping industry.

Subjects covered will include:

- General safety precautions: bee stings, equipment, safety for you and others
- Seasonal cycle of honey bees: regional location, climate, food, etc
- Why pests and diseases are important: economic impact on beekeeping industry, pollination dependant industries and community
- What is disease, what causes disease: definitions, four main types of disease, causal agents, infectious and non-infectious
- Different pathogens and transmission methods: micro-organisms, metazoan organisms, transmission
- Four main brood diseases: American foulbrood, European foulbrood, chalkbrood, sac brood
- Practical: inspecting hive for brood diseases, bee collection and examination for nosema examination and control methods for hive pests
- Adult bee diseases: nosema, viruses
- Hive pests: small hive beetle, wax moth, other minor pests
- Non-infectious disorders: neglected brood, plant poisoning, pesticides, queen bee problems
- Exotic pests and diseases: varroa mite, tropilaelaps mite (Asian mite), tracheal mite, braula fly, Asian bees, Africanised honey bees, Cape bees
- Surveillance programs for exotics: National Sentinel Hive Program, NSW DPI sugar shake kits, awareness programs
- Exotic incursion response: AUSVETPLAN, beekeeping involvement
- Management strategies for disease prevention: be proactive rather than reactive, be observant, respond quickly
- Laws and legislation: why legislation was introduced, relevant Acts relating to honey bees, re: pests and diseases, other legislation for pest and disease management

This is a limited opportunity to attend a formal course specifically on pests and diseases of honey bees. Availability of this course in future years is not a certainty.

If you're not eligible for the grants but still want to attend one of the courses, you are most welcome but you will have to pay the fee for the course.

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AQIS - EXPORT MATTERS

Establishment Listing For Exporters of Honey and Bee Products

To meet importing country requirements, AQIS will now list all honey and bee product exporters on the AQIS Establishment Register (ER).

Exporters of honey and bee products for human consumption and of honey and bee by-products to the European Union (EU) and to Canada will now be included on an ER list.

To be included in the category of exporters to the EU, you must provide documentary evidence that your business is currently compliant with a recognised HACCP based food safety plan

AQIS will transfer the details of everyone that has provided their details to me to the new list.

Honey exporters can send questions on registrations to: exportestablishmentregistration@aqis.gov.au
However, please contact me, if you require further explanation of this change and any other information relating to the export of honey and bee products.

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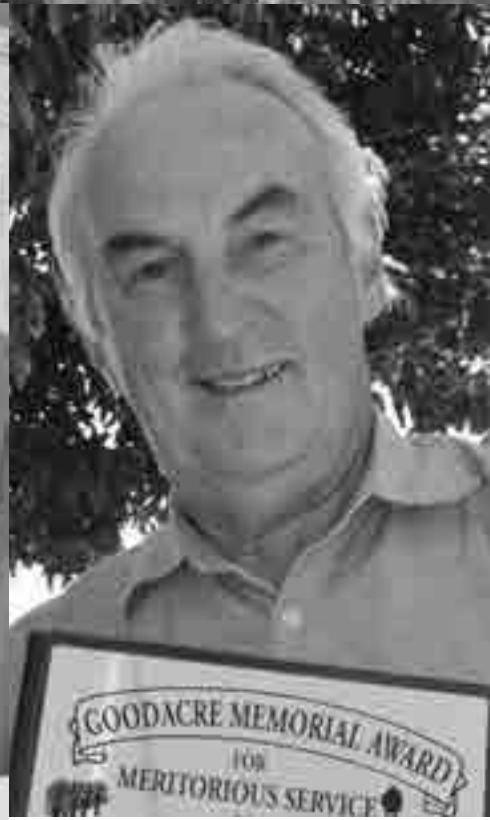
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Thinking beyond the package



NICK'S NEWS

from I&I NSW



Nick Annand, Livestock Officer (Bees),
Industry and Investment NSW, Bathurst
Phone: 02 6330 1210 nicholas.annand@industry.nsw.gov.au

The last few years have not been easy with continuing drought conditions prevailing throughout much of NSW west of the range. To date the spring/summer has yielded very little honey for much of the state and prospects are not looking great for the remainder of the season. The dry along with the heat wave conditions have created a volatile situation for fires. This all sounds rather pessimistic but I would like to refresh your responsibilities regarding the use of smokers and also provide details on what is available from the state and federal governments regarding assistance to beekeepers in 'exceptional circumstances' (EC) or 'drought declared' areas.

Smoker Use

Obviously as beekeepers who are continually lighting and extinguishing smokers, you are using common sense when doing so to minimise the chances of starting a fire. But please just take a bit more caution over the summer. I do urge all beekeepers to carry some fire fighting equipment (eg knapsack full of water, fire extinguisher, fire rake etc.) and have it close by and ready for use when ever using a smoker.

Regards the use of a smoker during a fire ban, try not to use them at all but if you do need to you are legally required to comply with – the Rural Fires Act 1997 Notification under Section 99 that allows the use of a smoker only if used as outlined in Schedule 10.

SCHEDULE 10 - Bee Hive "Smokers"

Fire lit and maintained in a metal canister, known as a "bee hive smoker" used by apiarists to produce smoke for use in connection with the management of bees and bee hives, provided that:

- the canister is a commercially available "bee hive smoker" designed to prevent the escape of sparks or incandescent or burning material;
- the fuel for the canister is lit inside a building or vehicle by a responsible adult person and the canister is sealed prior to leaving the building or vehicle and being taken to the hives;
- fire, sparks or incandescent or burning material is not permitted to escape from the canister in the open air;
- the canister is not to be left unattended while it is alight;
- the fuel is totally extinguished inside a building or vehicle by the
- responsible adult person at the completion of use.

Available Assistance for Beekeepers

There is a whole range of different types of assistance programs available to beekeepers ranging from financial assistance to social and emotional counselling. What is available to beekeepers regarding financial assistance can be divided into federal government (exceptional circumstances or EC) and state government (drought declared) assistance. These corresponding assistance programs are only available to those areas that meet certain criteria and are declared as being EC or drought declared areas (for maps of these areas see web sight below). For beekeepers to access assistance it is not where your business is based but it is where the majority of your hives

are located that matters. Under the EC assistance (federal) interest rate subsidies and income support payments are available. To find out more and gain access to interest rate subsidies, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) and for income support payments contact your local Centrelink office.

Under Natural Disaster arrangements, if beekeepers are impacted upon (eg fire) they get access to 50% transport subsidies on movement of fodder (bee food) and water. And access to the low interest loan of up to \$130,000 at 2.56% through the RAA.

If you are in a declared drought affected area bee keepers can get 50% transport subsidies on movement of fodder (including bee foods such as sugar syrup, dry sugar, protein supplements etc.) and water.

You can access both schemes if you are in a drought affected area and are hit by a natural disaster as well.

Access to transport subsidy is through your local Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) formerly known as the RLPB. Please be aware that many of these assistance programs have eligibility criteria that must be met. For example: Where a honey producer is making a claim for subsidy on the transport of bee foods or water, no subsidies will be paid for loads of less than 500kg.

But importantly - Don't self-assess

If you don't believe that you fit any of the criteria for the assistance and you are experiencing difficulties due to the drought, please contact one of the Drought Support Workers as they may still be able to assist you.

For a comprehensive listing with further information of what is available and how to access it see the departments website:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought
Or contact (free calls):

I&I NSW (DPI) drought hotline – 1800 814 647
Drought assistance line (Centrelink) – 132 316
NSW Rural Assistance Authority – 1800 678 593

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2010 SYDNEY ROYAL NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

The Sydney Royal Apiculture Competition has grown – cementing its status as a National Competition and is now titled the Sydney Royal National Honey Show.

INCREASED PRIZE MONEY

Prize money for all small producer and hobbyist classes for 2010 will be:

1st \$60, 2nd \$30 and 3rd \$10

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is committed to awarding excellence in Australian Agriculture and this fantastic competition includes the judging of live bees, candles, beeswax, wax moulds, liquid honey and other apiculture related products.

NEW COMMERCIAL CLASSES

For the first time there will be classes for commercially available liquid and creamed honey.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded for commercial classes 40 – 42, where a required standard is reached. Medal artwork will be supplied to all medal winners for further promotional opportunities on their labels.

Entering our National Honey Show has never been easier. Entries can be completed online at www.sydneyroyal.com/honey before the closing date of entries on **Wednesday, 3 February 2010**.

Exhibitors will then need to post, courier or deliver their exhibits to arrive at Sydney Showground on Monday 29 March 2010 ready for judging.

All exhibits will be displayed in cabinets located in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome next to the Honeyland stand throughout the Show. There is excellent exposure for your exhibits, with over 750,000 potential Showgoers visiting the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome throughout the Show.

The 2010 Sydney Royal Easter Show will be from Thursday 1 to Wednesday 14 April 2010.

For more information about the classes available and to view the 2010 entry form and schedule, please visit www.sydneyroyal.com.au/honey or contact Elaine Rogers on 02 9704 1449 in the Agriculture Section.

APICULTURE FIRST JUDGED IN 1888

Competitions for Apiculture began in 1888, appearing in a variety of sections before being given their own in 1901 and finally in 1995.

The first classes for Apiculture were contained in a section called Food (fresh, preserved or in various states of preservation), from 1888-1900. In this period there were classes for honey (comb or extracted). There were also various classes included intermittently during this time such as; Displays of apiary products or 'appliances', Collections of apiary products or 'appliances', Hives & Combs / Frames. Bees, Beeswax, incl. empty combs.

Apiculture had its own section from 1901-1912 with classes for honey (comb and extracted), collections, bees and beeswax. There were also classes for hives (1901-1908), and displays (1902-1908).

In 1913 Apiculture Competitions were moved into the Agriculture section (along with fruits, vegetables, grains, etc). There were a variety of classes and in 1934 a class was introduced for Bulk Honey (for export).

Apiculture was moved into the Dairy Produce Section in 1962. From 1974-1984 there was a competition for branch exhibits, this being for product displays by branches of the Commercial Apiarists Association. Chunk honey was introduced in 1982 and creamed honey and a small producers class in 1984.

Changes in the format of the Cheese & Dairy Produce and Fine Food Sections in the early 90s meant that Apiculture moved sections frequently in that time. Finally in 1995 Apiculture was once again given its own section. Classes for honey (comb, creamed, chunk, liquid & granulated), bees, beeswax, small producers and collections remained consistent and in 2000 classes were introduced for candles, wax moulds, mead and pollen.



SHOWING HONEY AT AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

By Bruce White

Several Agricultural Shows have classes for honey, beeswax, queens and candles.

While beekeepers take a lot of pride in handling honey during extracting and in recent years more beekeepers have become producer packers the majority do not enter the honey they produce in Agricultural Shows.

Entering in Agricultural Shows rewards competitors by the keen interest shown by the public in the exhibits.

Competitors should also get much satisfaction from the prize cards, these can be used to promote the sale of honey if you are a producer packer at farmers markets.

This article should help beekeepers prepare honey for Agricultural Shows and give guidance to stewards or judges involved with Apiculture sections at Agricultural Shows.

Harvesting the honey

The first step that is very important is to select the combs.

Newly drawn white combs fully capped with the desired honey are selected. If all cells are fully capped the honey is at its maximum density.

The comb should be held up with a bright light behind the comb and inspected for any stored pollen, if pollen is present the comb should be rejected or the pollen cells **cut out** prior to removing the honey. Pollen must not be mixed with the show honey.

By using a bright light you will also be able to tell if the honey is the same floral type, if it is all the same colour, remove the honey from the combs.

The best way to remove the honey for showing is to press the honey from the cells. Uncap the comb then with a clean knife or other suitable instrument force the honey from the cells of the comb. This is the best method of minimizing air entering the liquid honey for competitions.

The other method is to extract the white combs using a small hand extractor. This will avoid the risk of overheating the honey by using no heat during extracting. The extractor should be made of food grade material stainless steel or food grade plastic.

If propolis is on the frame it should first be removed before the frame is placed into the extractor. When removing the honey from the extractor gate or pressed honey pour the honey down the edge of the settling container to minimize the air bubbles. Honey is hygroscopic and can absorb moisture from the atmosphere. If possible use a small bucket so it can be filled to the top or plastic ice cream container and ensure the lid is air tight.

Allow the honey to settle for several days preferable at a temperature of 37°C. This will cause any air bubbles wax or other matter to rise to the surface and can be carefully skimmed off the surface.

After the settling

With the honey about 37°C pour it down the edge of a cone shaped nylon strainer. Nylon straining material is available from beekeeping suppliers and can be sewn into a cone shaped bag with the point of the strainer almost touching the bottom of the container. The best container for the straining process is a plastic bucket with a gate at the bottom or an ice cream container. After straining the settled honey carefully remove the strainer. Allow the honey to remain in the straining container for about one week.

After a week pour the honey into your show jars by opening the honey gate on the bucket or cut a hole in the bottom of the ice cream container, vent the lid before pouring, then pour the honey down the inside edge of the jar to minimize air bubbles entering the honey.

All jars in an entry should be filled to the same level for uniformity with the honey just not touching the inside of the cap when the jars are level.

Selection of jars is very important, hold the jars up before filling to ensure there are no flaws from the glass molding, and cull any with imperfections. Equally important is the cleaning of the jars with a quality glass cleaning detergent.

The jars must comply with the show schedule usually 500g glass round jars.

Store the filled jars in a dark location in a closed cardboard box with cardboard bottle partition so the jars don't touch each other if stored in a dark location the honey colour is unlikely to change in the short term.

Storing liquid honey granulation can be inhibited by storing at temperatures lower than 0°C



2 jars of liquid honey, 1 of candy in standard 500gram jars

Liquefying granulated honey

This must be done with extreme care to avoid over heating the sugars and darkening the honey colour use warm air or a water bath so the honey temperature is kept below 43°C. It is preferable to not use liquefied granulated honey in liquid classes.

Classes

All honey in the same entry should be of the same blend or floral type.

Judging Qualities

Based on the Sydney Royal Easter Show point score, some variation to the points may occur at other shows.

Liquid Honey	Point score
Flavour	25
Density	25
Colour	25
Aroma	10
Clearness	10
Brightness	5
Total	100

Flavour

Honey should be palatable, free from “tang”, off flavour, fermentation and acidity. If the honey is a floral type class e.g. Yellow Box the honey must be characteristic of that floral type honey

Density

Honey varies in density; highest points are awarded to the highest density. Density can be determined with a refractometer, rating the buoyancy of the glass rod near the honey surface or rating the rising of an air bubble by inverting the jar.



Checking the density of honey by the rate the bubble rises

Colour

Liquid classes state the colour at the Sydney RAS are for light, very light, medium and dark.

A Pfund honey grader can be used to grade honey by colour.

In the case of very light honey, the lighter the colour the higher the points awarded. Other classes are within the prescribed colour ranges.

Aroma

Honey with a pleasing aroma scores the highest points. Fewer points are awarded for honey with offensive aroma or no aroma, or those with fermentation, or overheated. Aroma varies according to the floral source hence honey from Clover, Stringybark and Yellow Box has its own bouquet.

Clearness

Honey must not have a dull or cloudy appearance; it should be clean and have a sparkle about it.

Brightness

Slightly warm the honey in the jars before showing to increase the brightness. This will remove minute crystals if present and give the entry more brilliance. The honey must be at room temperature for judging.

Chunk Honey

This is a jar of honey with a cut out section of capped comb placed into the liquid honey in a jar.

Chunk Honey	Point score
Appearance	25
Colour	25
Flavor	20
Density	20
Clearness	10
Total	100

Prepare the honey as for liquid honey showing except you need to select a comb of honey as you would for showing a frame of capped honey.

Using a hot knife cut out a section of the comb after first pulling out the wires in the frame that held in the comb foundation.

The comb section of honey should fit into the jar through the lid opening touch the bottom of the jar and the top finishing so it doesn't just touch the lid.

The comb honey and liquid honey should be the same colour and floral type.

Cut out the section of comb and allow it to drain over a grid i.e. wire queen excluder. Pieces of wax should drain away so your exhibit has no particles of wax present.

Preparing Granulated Honey

The general requirements are similar to liquid honey.

Of major importance is the texture of the granulation and firmness of set.

Granulated Honey	Point score
Evenness of grain	30
Flavor	30
Firmness	30
Colour	10
Total	100

Evenness of grain

Classes can be fine or course grain.

In the case of fine grain the granules should be fine and almost indistinguishable to the palate and tongue with all the grains even. Floral types such as Lucerne and Clover have natural fine grains. Course grain floral types are usually Eucalypts with the grain larger than the fine grain.

Granulation

To achieve even granulation 10 to 15 per cent of the selected granulation honey called “starter” is mixed with the selected liquid honey you wish to granulate. Mix the starter thoroughly at 18°C to 24°C with the liquid honey until the whole mix is the same colour and consistency incorporating as little air as possible.

Leaving the mix at 14°C for 12 to 36 hours. Before it sets firmly the honey should be poured slowly into the show containers pouring on the inside of the jars to prevent air bubbles occurring. Store at 14°C so the mix will set in about 3 weeks.

Best results are obtained if the granulated honey is in firm condition just before showing.

Flavour

The Flavour will be determined by the floral source of the starter and liquid honey used in the mix.

Firmness

The mix should set firm but be easy to spread, the starter used will determine this characteristic, select granulated starter that meets this criteria.

Colour

The colour should be off white to cream this will be determined by the starter and liquid honey used.

Creaming Honey

Fine grained starter must be used, such as fine grained granulated honey, or save some of the previous batch of the honey you creamed.

The point score is similar to granulated honey.

The colour should be white.

The mixing of the starter into the liquid honey is done in such a way to add air to the mix by slow or high speed mixing using a mincer or stirring motorized method.

Creaming machines are available from beekeeping equipment manufacturers, dough mixing machines can be used or a motorized mincing machine.

Don't use a Mix Master or Kenwood Chef as the honey is too dense and can cause the motor to overheat and it will blow up.

With a dough mixer beat the honey until it won't go any whiter, pass the honey through the mincer or a commercially available creaming machine until it is white as you can get it.

Preparing Comb Honey

Classes at Shows include comb section and frames of honey.

The show sections and combs must have new comb that has been brood free.

Frames and sections are best drawn above the brood chamber with the hive fitted with a queen excluder.

A queen excluder reduces the amount of pollen likely to be in the comb or section. Ensure the frames and sections are correctly assembled and fitted with comb foundation.



Frame of honey ready to show

Colony Selection

Closely observe the behavior of how the bees work on the comb.

Select colonies that leave an air space under the cappings,

this gives the cappings a whiter colour than colonies that leave no air space.

Avoid colonies that collect and deposit a lot of propolis as this could stain the cappings.

Remove sections and show combs from colonies that have been on a heavy honey flow as soon as the whole frame or section is completely capped to avoid discoloring of the cappings by bees walking over them.

Hold the frame or section with a light behind it to show up any pollen cells, cull these.

Comb Honey or Section	Point score
Fullness	30
Colour of Cappings	30
Evenness	20
General Appearance	20
Total	100

Fullness

Highest points are awarded to combs or sections that are well drawn out.

Colour of the capping

Cappings should be whitish in colour.

Evenness

All cells that are capped should be even with no depression on the comb surface, cappings should all be the same colour, indicating the honey in the comb is from the same floral type. Honey flows that produce light coloured honey are preferred.

Some section classes may indicate the type of honey in the section e.g. light or dark.

General Appearance

The entry should be attractive; it is therefore important to clear the wooden component of the frame or section, remove any stains and sand paper the wood so it is more attractive. Entries must be shown in a bee proof wooden display case with glass or Perspex sides in the case of frames. Display cases can be purchased to hold a single frame from Beekeeping Equipment Manufacturers.

For sections use Glad wrap, Cellophane, Perspex or glass sided cases over the section to make it bee proof.



Apiculture Display at the RAS

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KEVIN RAYMOND BARKER

28 June 1932 – 29 October 2009

Kevin had many interests. He was a retired veteran (Korea), a passionate beekeeper (former member of the NSWAA Executive). He also loved his chooks and prospecting as well as being very involved with the RSL and Legacy.

Kevin's early education included years at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Glenfield NSW. This early training in Agriculture included most aspects of gardening, chooks, livestock training and possibly bees.

After his chooks, prospecting would have had to be his next passion. Kevin was successful in prospecting for opal at Hungerford (SWQLD). Mining maps refer to this find as "BeeHive Barker".

Kevin was a small beekeeper, 300 hives of 10-frame equipment, with about 200 or so 6-frame nucleus hives as replacements. Kevin was known as the "drum to the hive man", as he used to consistently obtain average yields per hive of 300kg or more.

He loved his Yellow Italian bees and enjoyed his queen rearing. He only purchased queens in poor seasons. On one occasion he responded to an ad in the ABK beekeeping magazine for "Yellow Italian Queen bees", and ordered a large quantity specifying that they had to be "Yellow Italian". What arrived did not meet with Kevin's expectations; he contacted the Dept of Agriculture to inspect the queens. Not satisfied by the Department's comments, he wrote to the ABK on the issue of whether "Yellow Italian" could mean any other colour. It was in the media for months and never resolved for Kevin. It did take him quite a few years to return his queen bees to their original Yellow state.

Kevin could spin a good yarn, or write a good letter when necessary. This ability served him well in many fields. Of note is the time of Eucalyptus dieback outbreak 30 years ago that was killing trees all over NSW; also his favourite honey tree, Yellow Box. Kevin noted that on a Yellow Box tree at Yeoval nearly all branches had died but one was fresh and growing, as if there was nothing wrong. Kevin reported this to the CSIRO entomology research team, which resulted in a genetic breakthrough and Kevin had the new trees names after him.

He really got into his beekeeping when he returned to Australia from Korea. He based his beekeeping around Yeoval but also had a base at Hungerford. The beekeeping shed at Hungerford was constructed by the late Malcolm Meek and used by all beekeepers visiting or working at Hungerford. Kevin was non-mechanical so everything was done by hand; this included moving his bees, or uncapping the combs of honey before going into the extractor. His trucks and other machinery had to either work or fix themselves.

Kevin, in an effort to train young beekeepers to start the day early before it got too hot, enlisted the support of a large noisy rooster from the Hungerford Pub chook pen. He placed the rooster in a cage under the bed of the young unsuspecting beekeeper, resulting in a 4am first call by the rooster then 5am continuous calls until found and removed. No problem with early wakeup calls after that.

Rest in Peace, Kevin
A friend and mate - **Warren Jones**

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INTERNATIONAL HONEY MARKET REPORT

Ron Phipps, CPNA International - New York - 1 December 2009

As the second decade of the Third Millennium commences, the American honey industry confronts a turbulent market. That turbulence reflects: 1) a global shortage of honey, 2) turmoil in foreign exchange rates that are tending to increase prices for honey and other commodities, 3) a two-tiered honey market reflecting the conflict between legal and circumvented honey, 4) volatile weather patterns and 5) stress on the health and vitality of pollinators, including honey bees.

The Crops

Both the US and Canadian 2009 honey crops were short. The Canadian honey crop had less pure clover and more wildflower and canola than usual as the cool summer weather extended the canola bloom to an unusual duration of 2 months. Because of the extension of the canola bloom, Canada produced marginal amounts of clover, since canola bloomed at the same time as clover and the bees chose to pollinate the canola. Although the colour is white, the tendency of this excellent canola honey is to crystallize rapidly. The Canadian crop, due to very nice September weather, had some recovery and is now estimated to be 55 million pounds plus or minus 5 million. Nonetheless, this is far less than the normal 75-80 million pounds.

The normal US crop is about 200 million pounds and the 2009 crop is estimated to be only about 155 million pounds. The loss of bees is not universal, and some beekeepers are satisfied with the condition of the bees as winter commences; but concern for CCD has not vanished.

The decline in the US crop, coupled with the short and darker honey crop in Argentina, has created a shortage of white honey, especially premium grades of clover honey. The current Argentine honey crop has been retarded by a recurrence of drought. It is likely that there will be a struggle from March to September 2010 both to secure white honey and to keep prices from escalating to possibly historic levels. North American packers are generally well aware of this situation and have started to look hopefully South to Argentina to secure and book honey on a forward basis.

Argentina

By the end of October 2009, Argentina exported 50,000MT to the world out of a total crop of only 55,000MT, which was half of the size of a good Argentine honey crop. This was Argentina's worst honey crop during the past 5 years. There is consequently no carryover as 2010 approaches.

The early spring in Argentina began with good weather and optimism. Then by mid-spring, 80% of Argentina suffered an extended drought that has both delayed the crop and damaged hopes for a bumper crop. During this period, the price of soybeans on the international market steadily rose as a consequence of the drought. As late spring (end of November through mid-December) in Argentina came, rains returned and in some areas floods occurred. If rains abate and become periodic, regular and adequate, an increase in the 2010 crop of 10% to a little more than 60,000MT is expected. The colours will tend more towards LA and ELA than in the past. The primary reason is the conversion of grazing lands to production of soybeans, which is now Argentina's largest and key export, with China becoming their major international customer.

As the production and export of meat and dairy products have declined due to policies initiated by the Argentine Government, the Pampas are no longer a key honey producing area making clover and alfalfa honey. More sunflowers are grown in Argentina and the general shift has been from a predominance of white honey to extra light amber honey. Since the early Argentine honey

crop is typically white honey, it is already clear that the drought that affected 80% of the country in mid-spring will significantly diminish the current availability of white honey from Argentina's developing honey crop. Buyers from Japan and the Middle East are bidding up US dollar prices for Argentine honey.

Brazil

The orange honey crop was very poor and the Cipo-Uva crop was a huge disappointment. For example, if a beekeeper has 800 hives in the Cipo-Uva area, they expect to produce 20,000kgs, but in reality they produced only 2,500kgs.

In the northeast of Brazil, the beekeepers are optimistic because they anticipate the rains will arrive just in time to maximize the flowering and flow of nectar. White honey from the northeast will probably be available in March. There are good prospects for the Maranhão crop that produces the dark honey for which the European market is willing to pay a high price. In Santa Catarina Province, prospects are good for conventional and organic light amber. Rains caused the loss of 80% of the crop in Rio Grande do Sul and Paraná.

During the 4th quarter, Brazilian domestic buyers have been paying high prices. In contrast to Argentina, Brazil has a significant domestic honey market. The strength of the Euro relative to the dollar may direct more Brazilian honey to Europe in 2010. The growing strength of the Brazilian Real is exerting significant upward price pressure on the Brazilian export prices.

Vietnam

Vietnamese honey production will commence in full strength in February 2010, when the rubber honey crop begins. For now, only modest amounts of cashew and coffee honey can be harvested.

The Vietnamese honey industry is working hard to improve quality and to strictly and effectively implement the Monitoring Program designed to prevent circumvention and transshipment of Chinese honey. Some efforts by Chinese in Taiwan have reportedly been stopped by the Vietnamese authorities. Vietnam realizes that implementing the Monitoring Program will enhance their reputation and long-term ability to export to the US.

Bee Conditions

In addition to concerns regarding the volatility of weather patterns, concerns persist regarding the health and vitality of the bee population in the US. During September and October, several large beekeepers reported significant and unexpected losses of bees. For example, in South Dakota a beekeeper who had 6,000 hives that were vigorous during clover bloom, found only 200 hives active and well. The bees from the other hives just disappeared and did not return to their hives. As acreage that was previously pasture land has been converted to corn (for ethanol) and soybean production, there has been a concurrent surge in application of pesticides administered by planes and helicopters that regularly sweep across the fields now spraying potent pesticides on corn and soybeans. The hypothesis is that these pesticides may be affecting the brains of the bees and their navigation systems. As cultivated crops encroach upon and increasingly surround pasturelands and the remaining wild fields, pesticide induced damage to bees looms as a growing problem. Similar problems exist for the application of toxic pesticides on the extensive citrus groves in Florida. Since the health of bees and the broader interests of agriculture are so inextricably bound together, an integrated macro solution will be required to protect agricultural interests.

During Apimondia, I had occasion to talk with several scientists who are experts on bee health. One professor from Sao Paulo University in Brazil, who has been studying Africanized bees for decades, had several relevant observations from his scientific studies of Africanized bees. On the one hand, these bees are not only good propagators, but they are highly resistant to disease. This is one underlying reason Brazil can produce the world's largest quantities of organic honey. But the Africanized bees are very sensitive to and become anxious under conditions of darkness and chaotic noise. Such stress can increase their vulnerability to pathogens and pesticides. Mono-flora source diets during the short life-span of worker bees may also contribute to abnormal stress and subsequent vulnerability to disease. When we think about these scientific studies in the context of modern large scale agro-business and modern migratory beekeeping practices that transport bees over large distances as the bees emerge from winter stress, the variables and environmental factors that may affect colony collapse disorder may come into sharper focus.

The Role of Foreign Currency Rates

The US economy is facing significant declines in the value of the dollar. This derives from: 1) the mammoth US national deficit which has reached over \$12 trillion dollars, 2) the drastic increase in money supply (printing of US dollars) to support the "bailout" given the Great Recession that threatened the solvency of the global financial system and 3) the projection of the continuation of high government deficits during the next two years. Since approximately 65% of the honey consumed in the US is imported, currency changes represent a major variable affecting honey prices.

During the past 6-12 months, several changes are important to note: 1) The Canadian and US dollars have attained parity, which means that during the past year, the US dollar has weakened relative to the Canadian Dollar by almost 25%. This makes the prevailing prices of Canadian honey in US dollars rise abruptly.

The Euro has moved from a rate of 1.25EU/\$1 this summer to over 1.50EU/\$1, as I write this report for publication in January 2010. This significant strengthening of the Euro will give European packers and importers a significant price advantage in purchasing South American honey, including Argentine, Brazilian, Uruguayan and Chilean honey. The Brazilian Real has also significantly appreciated in value moving up 14% against the dollar since July 2009. Only the Vietnamese currency has weakened relative to the US dollar, falling 8% since January.

The greater and more persistent the national deficit and the larger the money supply becomes, the more serious are prospects for further erosion of the US dollar, which has served as the global reserve currency for many decades. The strong inflationary pressures affect commodity prices, whether agricultural, mineral or energy. The rise of the price of gold to \$1,200 per ounce in early December manifests the impact of the decline of the US dollar on commodity prices.

Given the volatility of honey production patterns and relative currency valuations, most packers are very cautious not to extend prices to their retail and manufacturing customers beyond 1 quarter.

US Import Patterns

There is widespread belief among US honey packers and importers that the American honey industry is experiencing disruption and distortions due to the phenomena of transshipment of honey through third nations to avoid anti-dumping duties. Two Chinese nationals were arrested and pleaded guilty in 2009 to transshipping honey, misidentified as a product of Thailand and Philippines, in an effort to evade antidumping duties. The case against a third is pending in Seattle.

When a study is made of the dramatic changes in export patterns over the past 7 years, and of the productive capacities of newly emerging honey exporting countries, stark aberrations appear. We can compare US imports in 2009, 2008 and 2001 from several countries as follows:

Country	2001	2008	2009 (9 months)
	(million pounds)		
India	-	27.8	23.2
Malaysia	-	9.0	12.0
Indonesia	-	4.0	8.7
Taiwan	-	3.2	8.2
Thailand	2.7	2.0	3.0
China	41.4	24.7	0.1

Source: National Honey Report

The changes are not merely quantitative but qualitative. For example, some tropical countries are exporting vast amounts of "white honey," which is very difficult to find in the latitudes where the countries of origin are located, barring some botanical "miracle." We note that in 2009, 100% of the honey imported from Indonesia is white and 42% of honey from India is white. Import values indicate prices much lower than white honey from Canada, the US and Argentina. Published reports from Indonesia indicate that consumption of honey in Indonesia exceeds its production, which provides only 30% of its needs. Similar reports exist from Malaysia and Mongolia.

The phenomenon of blending or falsely labelling products is contributing to the confusion. Numerous trade samples have been evaluated and found to be either blended from several origins or ultra-filtered honey, which the FDA holds to be illegal to sell as honey. It is clear to all members of the honey industry that many emerging honey exporting countries do not have the technical capacity to ultra-filter honey, nor any economic reason to suffer the expense, even if they have the capacity. And yet huge amounts of this product are being offered to US buyers.

It is interesting to note that the price of Chinese white honey imported into the US in 2008 averaged \$0.22/lb. (less than \$485/MT), according to the National Honey Report. Canadian white honey imports during the same period averaged \$1.41/lb. Chinese honey prices reported to Customs in 2008, were 30% lower compared to 2001, when the antidumping case was effected. The unbelievably low valuations, no less the subsequent transshipments, have taken the sting out of the antidumping rulings of the US Department of Commerce. Chinese honey imports decreased dramatically from 25,000,000 pounds in 2008 to zero in 2009.

It would appear that the availability of extremely cheap Chinese honey worldwide has contributed to the 2-tiered price structure for honey which has persisted and increased throughout 2008-2009 in the US, and that honey laundering continues unabated until today. This phenomenon has aroused concern among American beekeepers and American honey packers throughout the country North to South, East to West and all regions in between. If honest members of the industry are to be left standing, a timely and comprehensive solution to honey laundering is imperative. During the period March-August, 2009, domestic and imported honey transactions were 29% and 71%, respectively, according to the NHB. The consumers clearly need imported honey to complement domestic production. But the industry also needs a level playing field that allows legal honey to compete with legal honey.

Conclusion

Future tendencies will be influenced by: 1) changes in the pattern of imports; 2) changes in foreign exchange rates; and 3) climatic and environmental changes. Of course, the industry awaits the day when the market will have a more level playing field which, in turn, will allow the creative and positive marketing of honey to play the decisive role in the competition of honey with other sweeteners.

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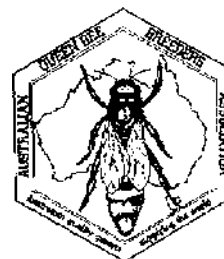


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SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FIELD DAY REPORT

Buzzing with excitement at beekeeping field day



*Gary Poile demonstrating hive management
Photo taken by John Rice*

The Southern Tablelands Branch of the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc (STBAA) is buzzing with excitement over the outcomes of the "Small Scale Beekeeping Field Day" held on Saturday 10 October at the village of Collector. Over 130 people attended the event, some from as far away as Tasmania.

Despite unfavourable weather conditions in the days leading up to the field day, all planned activities went ahead as scheduled.

Keynote speakers addressed the gathering on a number of topics covering spring management of beehives, control of pests and diseases and the marketing of honey in the local market place. Association members also demonstrated beekeeping techniques and hive management practices while several trade exhibitors reported excellent sales on the day.

Branch President, Mr Gary Poile said that he had received a lot of positive feedback. "We were delighted with the numbers and everyone that I spoke to seemed very pleased that they had attended". He said, "There are not many opportunities for people that are starting up in beekeeping to get first hand information and see "live" demonstrations and they really seemed interested in what was on offer".

The STBAA meets on a regular basis at different venues throughout the region to discuss matters of interest to beekeepers. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at Bungendore, 4:00 PM on Saturday 16 January 2010 at the Royal Hotel and all members and interested people are welcome to attend. For further information, please contact:

President - Gary Poile
Phone: 0423 672 153 or email: poile@ipstarmail.com.au
Secretary - Bill Stratton
Phone: (02) 4421 4198 or email: bbstratt@tpg.com.au



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Honey Sesame Drumsticks

(Microwave recipe)

- 8 chicken drumsticks
- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon chopped ginger
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds

Place all ingredients in a 2 litre bowl, stir until combined. Marinate for at least 2 hours or overnight. Remove chicken from marinade and place in a pie plate with the meatiest ends to the outside. Cook on MEDIUM-HIGH for 18 to 22 minutes, turning once during cooking. Serves 3-4

Watermelon with Honey

- ½ small watermelon
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- ¼ cup flaked almonds, roasted

Scoop the flesh out of the watermelon, discarding the seeds and cut into cubes. Mix together the honey, lemon juice and sherry then fold in the melon. Chill for 1 hour. Sprinkle with the almonds to serve. Serves 4

Honey & Nutmeg Cupcakes

- 125g butter, softened
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- ½ cup milk

Honey Icing

- 125g butter, softened
- ¾ cup icing sugar mixture
- 1 tablespoon milk
- ¼ cup honey

Preheat oven to 160°C. In a large bowl, beat together the butter, sugar, vanilla and honey with an electric mixer for 10-12 minutes or until pale and creamy. Gradually add the eggs and beat well. Sift the flour, baking powder and nutmeg over the honey mixture and beat well. Fold in the milk.

Spoon mixture into 12 x ½ cup capacity muffin holes lined with paper cases. Bake for 20 minutes or until cooked when tested with a skewer. Cool cupcakes on a wire rack.

To make the honey icing, beat the butter with an electric mixer for 8 minutes or until pale and creamy. Add the icing sugar, milk and honey and beat for a further 6-8 minutes or until pale and fluffy. Spread the icing over the cupcakes. Top with extra honey to serve. Makes 12

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Executive Director: Mr Stephen Ware

AHBIC NEWS

Excerpts Oct-Dec2009

AHBIC 2010 AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will be held in Queensland in conjunction with the Queensland Beekeepers Association Conference on 18 & 19 June.

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AHBIC CONSTITUTION

Following the re-convened AHBIC Annual General Meeting the Constitution has been amended and is now available on the AHBIC website: www.honeybee.org.au

REPORT ON APIMONDIA 2009

The latest Apimondia Congress was held in Montpellier in southern France in September. 10,000 delegates attended and filled the conference venue and ApiExpo. There was also an outreach program for school children and visitors to the area who were not involved in beekeeping that was highly successful in demonstrating various aspects of the industry.

There were detailed reports on research and developments affecting the industry in a comprehensive range of areas.

One session was devoted to a new problem for the honeybee industry in southern France in particular and potentially the industry worldwide generally. The Southeast Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*, was accidentally introduced into southern France in 2004 and has now spread to 25 of the 94 continental local government areas in the country.

Eradication is now regarded as impossible and it is expected to expand further in to Europe. The hornet preys on honey bees and eventually destroys the colonies. Research on mitigating this potential problem is still at a very early stage.

The research on existing pest problems continues and the latest developments in the various fields for the various tests were provided at the Congress.

Another session was devoted to presenting the research from around the world on the production and profitability benefits for farmers from honeybee pollination of various crops. The research was overwhelmingly supportive of the benefits for farmers from using these pollination services.

In other developments, the president of Apimondia Asger Jorgansen resigned and was replaced by Gilles Rattia from France and Ukraine was chosen to hold the Apimondia Congress in 2013 after Buenos Aires in 2011.

There was much praise from delegates at Montpellier who attended the Melbourne Congress on how they appreciated the work and friendliness of the Australian honeybee industry in making them feel welcome.

Terry Ryan - Apimondia 2007 Chair

CHANGES TO HONEY BEE LEVY ARRANGEMENTS

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and forestry has advised of the changes to the National Residue Survey/EADRA levy arrangements, as requested by AHBIC on 7 September 2009. The *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Regulations 1999*, the *Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Regulations 2000* and the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges (National Residue Survey Levies) Regulations 1998* now reflect these amendments.

The changes will apply from 1 October 2009.

The amended Regulations provide for an increase to the existing Emergency Animal Disease Response levy and charge on honey from 0.5 cents per kilogram to 0.7 cents per kilogram and decrease the National Residue Survey (NRS) excise levy and charge on honey from 0.3 cents per kilogram to 0.1 cents per kilogram.

The Regulations can be viewed at www.frli.gov.au after accessing the "what's new" link.

The funds will continue to be administered by the National Residue Survey in respect of NRS funds and by Animal Health Australia in respect of the emergency animal disease funds.

INTERNATIONAL HONEY EXPORTERS ORGANISATION (IHEO)

At the recent IHEO Meeting held at Apimondia 2009 in Montpellier, France, Mr Ed Planken was presented with a very nice award recognizing his role as President of the IHEO for the past 10 years.

Ed is to be congratulated for his efforts over the past 10 years and as Australians we should feel very proud of the way that through Ed's contributions Australia has been seen as a professional and capable country well suited to the role of President whereby all major honey producing countries have felt comfortable that the issues affecting bulk honey exports were being diplomatically well handled.

Ed handed over his role as President to Mexico to Ingrid Beutelspacher.

Jodie Goldsworthy

BEALE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION - Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements

The Rudd Government continues to make progress on reforming Australia's biosecurity system, following the detailed recommendations of the Beale Review.

Work is set to begin on planning for a comprehensive biosecurity IT upgrade to replace outdated systems, most of which are more than a decade old. The technology is increasingly unreliable and involves 75 different systems which need to be streamlined to reduce the potential impact on trade if systems fail.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has advised that a failure in the current inefficient clearance system would halt quarantine processing of trade within days.

The Government will also examine the current network of quarantine facilities for plants and animals entering Australia, to better plan for future needs.

Leases for the current five sites expire in 2015 and a number can't be renewed, meaning work must begin now to look at alternatives and ensure we maintain a rigorous biosecurity system.

The measures are another step forward in the long process of responding to the findings of the Beale Review, in consultation with other states and industry.

Detailed drafting of new legislation to replace the century-old Quarantine Act is continuing and interim arrangements which took effect on 1 July this year, in-line with the recommendations of the Beale Review, remain in place, including:

- Dr Kevin Dunn appointed as interim Inspector General of Biosecurity;
- the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's biosecurity functions consolidated into a new one-stop-shop, integrating AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and other areas in a Biosecurity Services Group; and
- former ABARE Chief Economist Mr Roger Rose has joined the Eminent Scientists Group which is responsible for reviewing the import risk analyses conducted by Biosecurity Australia.

A Biosecurity Advisory council is expected to be established later this year as the key source of independent biosecurity advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Consistent with the Beale Report, the Government has also moved from the previous system of Increased Quarantine Intervention, with inflexible targets, to a genuine risk management system and has maintained the National Sentinel Hive Program.

On-going work on the planned IT upgrade, the network of quarantine facilities, legislation drafting and maintaining interim arrangements will be supported with \$14.7million from within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry budget.

The Beale Review report made 84 recommendations, which the Government accepted in-principle. It followed the Callinan Inquiry into the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza. The government is on-track or ahead of schedule on implementing the 38 Callinan Report recommendations.

BEN HOOPER - NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Ben receives the 2010 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Honeybee Research and Development Program to study new apiculture techniques for hive and disease management.

Ben is self-employed, working in conjunction with his family's beekeeping business, which has 1200 hives managed for both pollination services and production of up to 100,000kg of honey a year.

He plans to visit the world's major honey production centres, in New Zealand, the US, Canada, Argentina and China, researching chilling techniques, which can be used to manage parasites and to improve the capacity of hives to provide commercial pollination

Ben is an Executive Member of the South Australian Apiarists' Association.

Nuffield Australia awards Scholarships each year to farmers in Australia. The objective is to increase practical farming knowledge and management skills and techniques generally.

These scholarships give Australian citizens the opportunity to study farming practices in New Zealand, Europe, Asia and the Americas and those countries best suited to the Scholar. They will also promote a closer understanding between farmers in the countries visited.

CONGRATULATIONS - 2009 CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP WINNERS

Tiffane Bate, a beekeeper and queen raiser from Western Australia

Tiffane will travel to New Zealand, USA, France & Germany for 9 weeks to study the breeding of bees that are resistant to the parasitic mite Varroa.

Bill Long, a pollinator from South Australia

Bill will travel to USA, Switzerland, Germany, France & UK for 5 weeks to investigate large scale pollination services which have developed since Varroa Mite incursion.

The Churchill Trust was established in 1965 to honour the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by awarding overseas research Fellowships known as 'Churchill Fellowships'.

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Churchill Fellowships allow you to design your own research project, travel the world and further your knowledge in your chosen field, before returning to make a real contribution to Australian society.

SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of the AHBIC Executive Committee and office staff, we wish all a happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to a prosperous 2010. The AHBIC office will be closed from 5pm Friday 18 December and will reopen at 9am on Monday 11 January 2010.

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