

# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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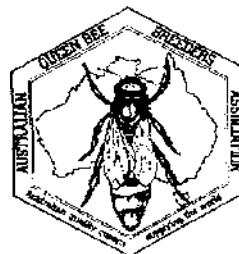
Volume 3 Number 6  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

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# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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

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**COVER:**      Almonds in bloom thanks to the honeybee!

Photo: Doug Somerville

**Copy Deadline for Next Issue of *Australia's Honeybee News* - 21 January 2011**

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## Season

Conditions have continued to improve for bees over all districts due to good rainfall. Hives have built up to good strength with swarm prevention a large part of management. Most ground flora species have given good pollen and some honey however, continued cool, wet conditions have not allowed big honey production. Most species of trees are now in full new growth mode and it will be interesting to observe which species puts bud on for future flowerings.

## Honey Prices

Most packers have brought prices back a little, thinking that with improved weather conditions, increased production will occur. This may not happen as production in the North of the State has been very limited and future production is difficult to come by. Honey stocks could be quite limited by April 2011.

It is very concerning to see the honey import figures for the previous 12 months with some 12,000 tons having been brought into Australia.

## AFB

During recent months there has been an ongoing discussion between Industry and I & I (DPI) staff, on better ways to manage AFB into the future. The political climate within I & I has changed during the past 18 months with staff willing to look at other ways to manage AFB more effectively, realizing that we cannot afford to contract Varroa whilst harbouring a growing AFB problem.

## Plaque Locusts

Up till the time of writing this report, I have not heard of any hive losses from locust spraying. I hope this is accurate. Most activity (spraying) is in South of the State at present. The weather has interrupted both hatchings and control activity. Hatchings were quite spread out over time which tended to prevent banding and has made control more difficult.

## Flooding

Heavy rain over recent weeks has given rise to many areas experiencing floods. The central Tablelands, Central West Slopes & Plains and the South West Slopes & Plains all are experiencing flooding. I have had one report at this stage of a load of bees being inundated with 24 hives being smothered. We hope this is not a common report during coming weeks.

## Marcus Oldham

Information is included in this edition about Marcus Oldham and the Leadership course that the NSWAA send one member to each year. Please read it and send any suggestions to The Secretary: [nswaa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nswaa@optusnet.com.au).

## Jen Poile

In this edition you will see an article written by a budding young journalist, Jennifer Poile. In upcoming editions Jen is going to be interviewing some of our older generation of beekeepers and capturing the ways it 'used to be done'. By way of introduction Jen has written a great piece on her grandfather.

## Payments

Members have been requesting the ability to pay membership fees directly to the Association's bank account. This will now be possible, but we ask that you are very diligent and put your member number as the reference and what you are paying for.

### Membership payments:

**BSB 062 770 Account Number 2800 8989**

## Dates for your diary

Plans for Conference 2011 are well underway. The Conference will be held in Dubbo on Thursday, 19 and Friday, 20 May at the Dubbo RSL Club. During Thursday and Friday there will be a Trade Show, as well the Dubbo Branch will be holding a Field Day on Saturday 21 May.

The 2011 Sydney Royal Easter Show will be held from Thursday, 14 April to Wednesday, 27 April 2011. Every year the Association asks for volunteers. There is accommodation provided and tickets into the venue for our volunteers.

**Be sure and mark these dates in your diary. The next edition will have all the information you will need for both events.**

## 2013 Centenary Conference

The Executive has been investigating what could be done to acknowledge the NSW Apiarists' Association's 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2013.

At the last meeting the decision was made to hold a four day Congress. The agenda for such an event is still to be worked out, however it is thought we should attempt to get the best speakers (researchers) on each topic that we can get, making the event world class.

## Seasons Greetings

The Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members & friends of the Association a Very Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Bill Weiss*

**State President**



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# NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following New Members:

Mario & Brenda Casido	Orange
W C Drewery	Leeton
Philip Swinn	Cowra

## SYMPATHY

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Keith McIlvride's daughter Jill on 23 November.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Keith & Marla, Jill's husband Peter and their family at this very difficult time.

## 2011 BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY

The Western Plains Branch of the NSW Apiarists' Association will be holding a Beekeeping Field Day at the end of the State Conference on Saturday 21 May 2011. *(The Conference dates were changed due to a clash with the annual Dubbo Show).*

We will have a variety of exhibitors, with the usual Beekeeping exhibitors, as well as Craft and Quilts.

Intending participants to the Conference and Field Day should be aware that the Dubbo Show will be starting to set up at this time, so accommodation may be in short supply.

As we get closer to the date we will provide more information and a list of exhibitors.

Please contact those below if you have any questions:

Bryn Jones Ph: 02 6887 2638

John Sunderland Ph: (02) 6887 2202



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**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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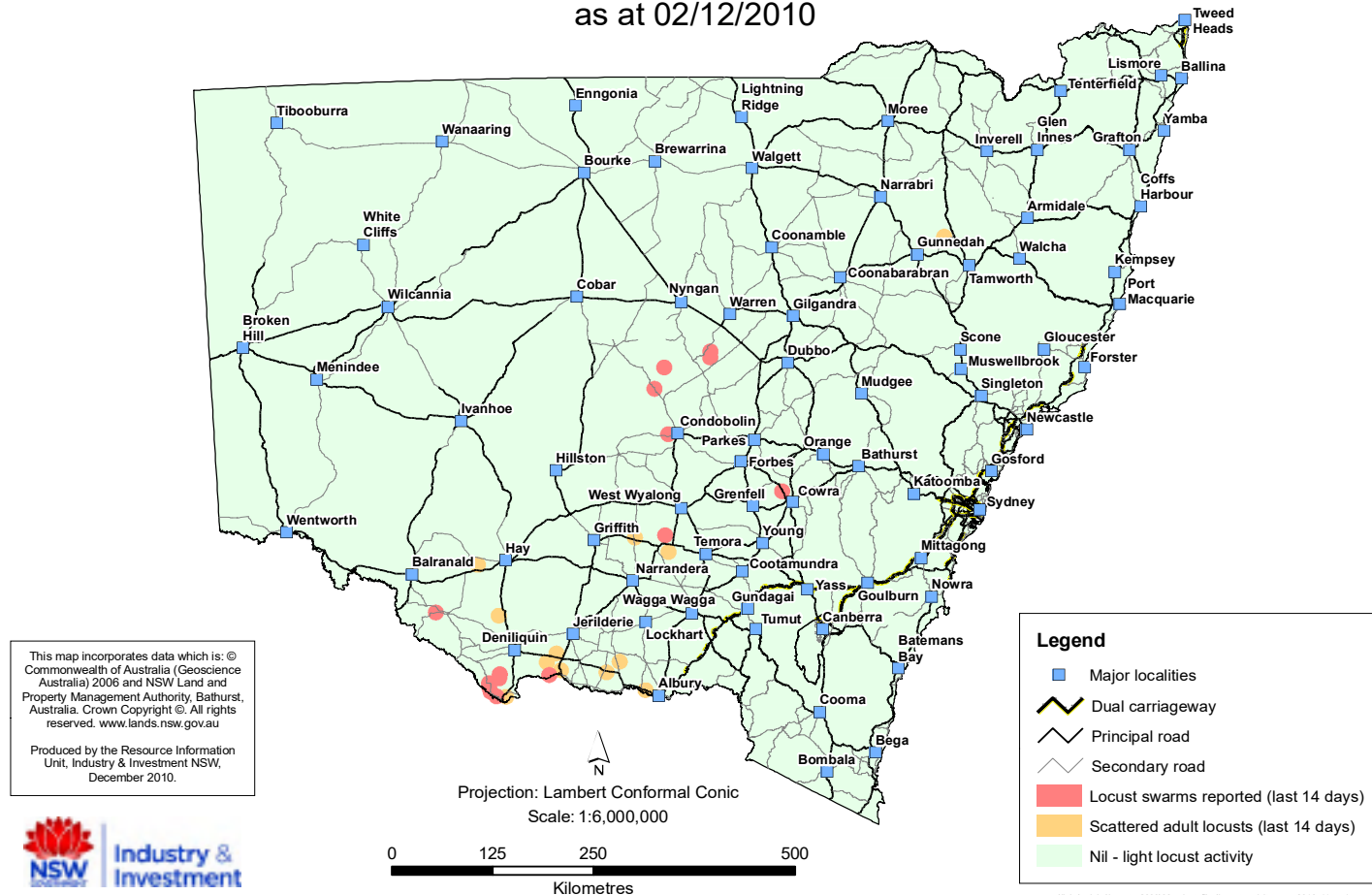
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## Locust concentration and swarm locations over NSW as at 02/12/2010



## NSW LOCUST UPDATE

NSW Industry & Investment  
30 November 2010

Around 230 locust reports were received over the week, taking total reports to 4,746. New activity remains concentrated to the Riverina and Lachlan LHPAs. Aerial spraying in the Hay area was completed last week and aerial surveillance for this week is on hold until weather conditions improve. There are 18 active reports of swarms, consisting mainly of low density populations. Current swarm activity is concentrated in the south of the State, including around Deniliquin and Jerilderie. We thank landholders for their monitoring and reporting efforts to date. We ask that everyone keeps up the good work and gets out into crops and pastures to check for locust activity, particularly swarms. Knowing where swarms are helps us identify where egg laying is likely to take place and where to focus our future control efforts. Treating young, 'banding', locusts remains the most effective and efficient time to control locust populations. Up from last week, our aerial surveillance has now covered 23.4 million hectares and some 109,000 hectares of dense locust bands have been aerially sprayed. With locust activity appearing to slow down across much of the State, this *NSW Locust Update* will be now issued on an as needs basis and as new developments emerge or new information becomes available. Should you have any questions about your local situation or locust control, please contact your local LHPA office. New information and resources will continue to be made available on the I&I NSW locust website: [www.agriculture.nsw.gov.au/locusts](http://www.agriculture.nsw.gov.au/locusts).

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# DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

Technical Specialist, Honeybees - Industry & Investment NSW - Goulburn

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## ALMONDS – To Bee or Not To Bee

Almond pollination in the central valleys of California is the biggest single migration of bee hives in the world. One estimate places the number of bee hives required at 1.3 million. They are shifted from all regions of the US into California at the end of their winter in early February. Various estimates place the number of bee hives in the US at around 2 million – this equates to 65% of all managed bees being trucked to California annually. The pollination service fee last season varied from \$US120 to \$180, with an average \$US140 per hive.

Almonds are a nut, native to the Middle East. They have specific growing requirements including cool/cold winters and warm, dry summers. Southern areas of Australia are particularly suited to this plant. In Australia the almond industry grew up in SA, but in recent years the industry has spread into VIC and NSW along the Riverina.

The role of honey bees is crucial – essentially, no bees equates to no nuts. In Australia almonds flower in August (late winter) and require anywhere from 2½–3 hives per acre. The accepted international standard for colony strength is 8 frames of bees per hive at the beginning of the flowering period.

What does the almond tree/flower offer bees? Several pollen samples have been tested, all very favourable for bees.

Five samples of pollen analysed for crude protein (CP) ranged between 23.3% to 30.7%, with an average of 26%. Any pollen with a CP level above 25% is considered a good quality pollen. The amino acid levels also indicate a pollen in nutritional balance. This species also produces reasonable quantities of pollen, even though it is frequently the only blossom available to bees in August, it is by all measures a reasonable quality pollen.

Unfortunately, the honey story is not as encouraging. A number of sources suggest that honey bee colonies either consume half a box of honey while foraging on almond blossom, or best case scenario they collect enough nectar to satisfy their immediate needs. One source (international) indicates that it is possible for the colony to collect and store nectar, converting it to a very bitter flavoured honey. Thus a nectar deficit is likely when bees are on almonds.

In regions where bees can fly to canola blossom, a more reliable nectar producer, the bees will do so even when the hives are placed in the almond orchards.

In August 2010 an estimated 200,000 bee hives were used for pollinating almonds in Australia. There are approximately half a million managed bee hives in Australia – removing those in WA and TAS, this leaves 400,000 to 450,000 hives in the eastern states.

The bee hive numbers required for almond pollination are set to continue to increase as further orchards are planted and the existing trees mature. The estimated bee

hive requirement for 2011 is likely to be around 210,000 to 220,000, around 50% of the bee hives in the eastern states.

The pollination fee received in 2010 ranged from \$60 to \$85, with the majority receiving \$70 to \$75 per hive. The lower price tended to be in SA. The feedback was mixed on how well the bees came off almond blossom. A number of reports were received indicating significant cases of EFB. This is usually caused by a combination of conditions including poor quality pollens at either the beginning of winter, during winter or early spring, plus cool wet winters, plus individual colonies' general susceptibility to the disease.

A study completed a few years back, and available at [www.rirdc.gov.au](http://www.rirdc.gov.au), investigated the nosema levels of bees while on almonds. This study was conducted over three years and provided some extremely good information. Nosema disease is the most serious disease of adult honey bees, reducing their lifespan quite considerably. At times this disease can cause the death of colonies. The trial indicated that nosema disease was very common in the bee colonies in the almond orchards. This is probably due to the time of year (in late winter the disease is more prevalent) and the stresses on bees of moving bee hives onto the orchards.

Ensuring that you have a bee colony that meets the pollination standard for almonds – 8 frames covered in bees – and the colony is in a healthy and active state in early August requires a planning process starting soon after Christmas. It has been long recognised and accepted that “good bees” or well prepared bee colonies in autumn equate to “good bees” in spring. Also, good bees will be a lot less susceptible to nosema infections.

So, what does this mean as far as management is concerned? First decision – are you going to provide bee hives for almonds in 2011? If so, how many? The planning begins.

The colonies require to be headed by a young, healthy queen so requeening may be necessary. The population should be built back up after the spring and early summer honey flows to ensure the colonies are the equivalent of healthy doubles (two full boxes with most frames covered in bees). There should be as many young bees as possible at the beginning of winter, colonies should still be breeding in April/May. Leave a solid box of honey on each hive to ensure adequate stores for bees to consume over winter.

The alternative to this is to chase breeding conditions during winter. There are very few opportunities to do this. Every four years or so, spotted gum on the south coast flowers during winter. This plant produces a surplus honey crop plus provides an excellent quality pollen. Bee hives can be moved straight from this onto almonds. The only other flowering event that may possibly come close is napunyah in the channel country in south-west QLD. Napunyah is a winter flowering eucalypt – on its own it

can be an excellent nectar producing plant, but the pollen is of a very poor quality. Often on many sites there are a range of flowering plants and bees are able to forage from many sources of pollen. Napunyah flowering is not a frequent event, only occurring when suitable rainfall stimulates budding.

In many cases working late autumn or winter honey flows is likely to expose bees to generally poor nutritional conditions and increase problems with nosema, this will equate to colonies in very poor condition in early August. Three typical flowering events highly prized for their honey production but often equating to poor bees after the flowering include grey box in the autumn, which has a very poor reputation for reducing colony populations; mugga ironbark, a nectar flow with no pollen support; and white box, which is a major honey flow on the northern tablelands but the pollen is extremely poor quality and bees require very good autumn management to work this winter flowering event.

To provide bee colonies of a good strength to pollinate almonds, many of the factors mentioned will need to be taken into consideration. Quite possibly you may need to forfeit a honey crop to keep bees in the best possible condition to pollinate almonds. The question you need to ask is, is it worth it? You may need to sacrifice a box or two of honey – 20 kg per super x \$3–\$3.50 per kilo, current wholesale price \$60–\$70. The bees may consume 10 kg of honey while on almonds, another \$30 forfeited. Of course this does not take into consideration extraction costs.



*Almond Pollination*



Other contributing factors to your decision making process may include the biosecurity risks with any pollination service. When a large number of beekeepers place bee hives in close proximity to each other you will invariably have the associated risk of spreading various pests and diseases.

Pesticides are a possible risk with any pollination job. Currently the practise on almonds is to apply a fungicide at the beginning and the end of almond flowering. While fungicides have historically been regarded as a minor risk to bees, increasing concern has been expressed in the USA that this may not be the case.

Other considerations worthy of note:

- truck access during wet conditions;
- suitable places to unload bees;
- is the communication with your broker/grower productive and clear?;
- who will have bee hives next to you and what is their disease management strategy?;
- are you prepared to move bees into and out of orchards when demanded (ie.at short notice?);
- the distance to transport hives to almonds in many cases is quite considerable and therefore a major cost in fuel and time.

The decision is yours.

**Almond pollination – to bee or not to bee?  
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# MARCUS OLDHAM

## RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program is an intense five-day workshop conducted on the college campus at Geelong, commencing on the last Sunday in June each year.

Marcus Oldham holds open a spot for a member of the NSWAA and each year the Association sponsors 1 member to attend Marcus Oldham.

Below is a brief summary of the course details. In the past, those that have attended have had very positive feedback and felt they learnt a lot and also enjoyed themselves.

**If there is a member that you know that would like to attend the Leadership Program, could you please email the NSWAA Executive : [nswaa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nswaa@optusnet.com.au) by 1 March 2011.**

### Marcus Oldham Overview

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program commenced in 1992 and is recognised as one of the longest running rural leadership programs in the nation. It has developed a strong reputation in the agricultural and agribusiness sector, attracting support from a wide range of industry and rural community groups from a diverse regional background.

The industries represented include livestock grazing for meat and wool, broad acre summer and winter cropping, dairy production, poppy production, cotton production, horticulture, apiarists and agribusiness support agencies.

With an average of approximately 30 participants per course, there are in excess of 450 graduates from the Program across Australia. A number of these graduates are now representing their industries or rural communities at the decision making level in the board rooms of both community and industry groups.

The Program is an intense five-day workshop conducted on the College campus at Geelong, commencing on the last Sunday in June each year.

### Objectives

To seek to develop the skills and knowledge of participants to enable them:

- To undertake a leadership role in their industry or community
- To competently represent their industry or community in decision making forums
- To understand and address the issues facing rural industries and rural communities

### Aims

- To develop the leadership, communication and planning skills of individuals in the Program, through their participation in a process of self-discovery, skills training, knowledge building and team development
- To provide opportunities for participants to network with keynote speakers from industry and the community

### The Program

The five-day workshop involves facilitators who have both the training skills and empathy to understand the issues facing rural industry and rural communities, and industry background to assist in the development of solutions.

Training sessions include:

- Goal Setting
- Developing action plans
- Leadership and team building
- Rural health
- Community leadership
- Learning and communication including
  - public speaking and working with the media
- Understanding self and others
- Negotiation

Three dinners provide the opportunity for the participants to hear and debate the views of keynote speakers on a range of issues, which have relevance for rural and regional Australia. Issues such as impact of climate change, water as a natural resource, building regional and rural communities, and native title legislation have been debated during previous Programs. The dinners offer the opportunity to access these speakers and their views - an opportunity which may not be available in a regional or rural community.

A feature is the Leadership Program Industry Dinner. This Dinner, which involves the participants, our industry supporters and a number of invited industry guests to hear a keynote industry speaker, is a highlight of the Program. The Dinner also provides the opportunity for the participants to network with the industry supporters and industry guests.

### Participant Selection

Marcus Oldham College maintains a flexible policy in relation to selection of participants for the Rural Leadership Program.

There are no maximum age or experience criteria, but it is preferable for participants to be a minimum of 21 years of age.

Women are strongly encouraged to nominate.

Participants are selected on their potential to contribute as a leader in their community and industry, and a demonstrated desire to develop their leadership skills, self-confidence and personal effectiveness.

Nominations are called for in March of each year.

\*\*\*\*\*

***If you are interested contact NSWAA by 1 March 2011***

# NPWS VACANT BEE SITES - BALLOT RESULTS

CCA ZONE NAME	FORMER STATE FOREST NAME	SITE NUMBER	BURNT SITE*	SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Piliga East	1102	Burnt 10	BD & CA Woolfe
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Piliga East	1143	Burnt 10	Daniel Costa
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga	Piliga East	1190	Burnt 10	Daniel Costa
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	14		BD & CA Woolfe
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	15		BD & CA Woolfe
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	38		B & M Weiss
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1296	Burnt 10	D & J Howard
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1316	Burnt 10	B & M Weiss
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1333	Burnt 10	B & M Weiss
Piliga CCAZ1	Queqobla	441		BD & CA Woolfe
Piliga CCAZ1	Dubbo	446		Lindsay Parnell
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	9		Michael Johnston
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	16		BD & CA Woolfe
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	17		D & J Howard
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	22		Michael Johnston
Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1	Bebo	23		G & V Lockwood
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1292	Burnt 10	B & M Weiss
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1293	Burnt 10	BD & CA Woolfe
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1313	Burnt 10	Daniel Costa
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1314	Burnt 10	BD & CA Woolfe
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1331	Burnt 10	B & M Weiss
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Denobollie	1350	Burnt 10	G & V Lockwood
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Orr	1359	Burnt 10	BD & CA Woolfe
Piliga CCAZ1	Queqobla	452		Ray Jones
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Orr	1460	Burnt 10	G & V Lockwood
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Wittenbra	1541	Burnt 10	Ray Jones
Timmallalie CCAZ1	Timmallallie	1485	Burnt 10	BD & CA Woolfe
Goonoo CCAZ1	Goonoo	141		Lindsay Parnell
Goonoo CCAZ1	Goonoo	109		G & V Lockwood
Pilliga CCAZ3	Pilliga NR	540		Daniel Costa
Pilliga CCAZ3	Pilliga NR	575		B & M Weiss
Pilliga CCAZ3	Pilliga NR	668		Ben McIntyre
Pilliga East	Goonoo	1266		D & J Howard
CCA Zone 1 Timmallalia	Wittenbra	1514		BD & CA Woolfe

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# BEE INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BICC) MEETING

Orange 28 October 2010

## **Mick Rankmore**

Regulatory Specialists, Apiaries, Agricultural Compliance  
Industry & Investment NSW  
PO Box 546 Gunnedah NSW 2380  
Ph: 02 6741 8374 Fax: 02 6742 4018 Mob: 0402 078 963  
Email: michael.rankmore@industry.nsw.gov.au  
Website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au

## **AGRICULTURAL COMPLIANCE SERVICES REPORT**

### **Staff changes**

Kathy Goulding, a new Regulatory Officer located at the Wollongbar office was appointed during October. She is undergoing on the job training and gaining experience in the various compliance areas. She will also be completing formal training as the opportunity arises.

### **Special apiary operations**

Two operations were conducted since the last BICC meeting. One at Inverell and one at Bathurst. Both were successful in that diseased and neglected apiaries were detected and the material disposed of. Credit is to be given to the Industry for providing accurate information about sites of interest.

An inspector conducted follow up inspections on 2 beekeeper's apiaries at Inverell. This was to ensure that the beekeepers are complying with the Apiaries Act.

Follow up inspections are planned for the Bathurst area in November. This mini operation will involve 2 Rural Crime Investigators from NSW Police. Kathy Goulding will also be attending to gain some hands on experience working bees.

### **Nuisance bee complaints**

Since March 2010 to 26 October 2010 there have been 11 written nuisance bee complaints. Five complaints were resolved. The remaining complaints are still under investigation.

### **AFB Tracing.**

#### **Response to AFB lab reports**

Since March 2010 to 26 October 14 beekeepers were sent a letter with primefacts on AFB. This included a tracing record with a request to supply tracing information and/or information about neglected sites.

### **AFB Tracing activities**

1. Follow up inspections from the Inverell operation. Sites at Bingara, Brodies Plains and Somerton inspected with AFB being confirmed at all 3 sites.
2. Letters posted to Cowra registered beekeepers due to information received about continual AFB infection of hives located in the township of Cowra.
3. Toronto: Beekeeper used old frames from his deceased fathers' apiary material and these are the likely source of infection. All unused material from that source was destroyed.
4. Bomaderry: Hives were moved 90 metres from the original location. No known source detected.
5. Ongoing inspections by one beekeeper revealed more AFB, most likely the results of previous outbreak.
6. St Benedict's Monastery – source unknown.

7. Binnaway – near Coonabarabran: Tracing form and Advice of neglected apiaries form received and investigated. Suspected source not confirmed. All hives burnt by owner with the explanation that they starved over winter.
8. Due to an AFB report near Wombat (Young district) 28 letters were posted to registered beekeepers within the Young Post Code. They were asked to inspect their own hives and report any suspected cases of AFB to an inspector. As a result of the letter one beekeeper has submitted smears which were positive for EFB.
9. Follow up inspections in the Wombat and Young areas have detected more AFB hives owned by other beekeepers.
10. A Young beekeeper notified AFB in his hives and provided advice of suspected unregistered beehives. These hives were inspected and no AFB detected. The owners are registered.
11. Two beekeepers had hives in Victoria on almond pollination at Robinvale, have had hives confirmed with AFB. The Victorian inspectors have been asked to provide site locations of known AFB hives detected by them at Robinvale during August.
12. Four other beekeepers were sent a letter asking for tracing information.
13. Glenmire area: More AFB was confirmed at a site previously inspected by our apiary inspectors about 12 months ago. The hives were burnt.

While an inspector was investigating reports of neglected orchards in the Forbes area he detected neglected and suspected AFB diseased hives. At the time of writing this report the matter was still being investigated.

### **Advice of neglected beehives**

Since April 2010 to 26 October there have been 8 written advice forms submitted. Two reports involved AFB. The hives were irradiated or burnt.

### **Stolen Hives**

Stewart Ward of Batemans Bay area had 6 nucleus 4 frame hives white in colour stolen about the end of September or early October. All had his brand (**W 218**) on the boxes and the frames. He has never sold any equipment before so only gear owned by him should have that brand on it. They were stolen from the Batemans Bay area from a site on the Kings Hwy. He has informed the police. He asked if we could please keep a look out.

### **Breach reports – summary**

Section 22: failed to notify AFB x 3 beekeepers– resulting in the issuing of a penalty infringement notice of \$550 to each beekeeper.

Section 6(1): keep bees while unregistered x 2 beekeepers –resulting in written cautions being issued.

Section 26(5) (a): introduce beehives into NSW without a health certificate. X 1 beekeeper resulting in a Penalty Infringement Notice being issued.

### **Biosecurity, surveillance, incident response and tracing. (BioSIRT)**

This process of entering beekeepers details in to BioSIRT is an ongoing one. When lab reports or other information about beekeepers are received I add the details in to BioSIRT as new Areas Of Interests (AOIs). 56 beekeepers details have been entered in to the system so far.

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# BEEKEEPERS WAGES

General information – If you need to enquire about beekeeper wages, the best place to start your inquiry is:

The Department of Fair Work:

Phone: 131 394 Website: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

There are two documents that cover award wages for beekeepers or assistant beekeepers:

1. Pastoral Award 2010 (this is the new award, but you have to refer to the old award to find out weekend and public holiday rates)
2. Pastoral Employees State Award (this is an old one but it is what is referred to if there is Saturday, Sunday or public holiday work involved)

The Department of Fair Work suggest that it is best if you ring and get figures as there may be parts of your own business that make a difference to the wages that are paid.

If you want to download the awards, below is the instructions to get to them:

Go to: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

Then: click on awards, then click on Award Finder, then click on Launch Award Finder, Then type in the code which is: MA000035 (for Pastoral Award 2010) - you can then download that award; To get the other award type in the code: AN120408 (Pastoral Employees State Award - for weekend and public holiday rates).

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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)



## Myrtle rust and beekeepers

On the 15 November a Myrtle rust industry briefing was held in Sydney. It was to explain and update industries that may be affected by the rust. I attended as a representative for the beekeeping industry.

Myrtle rust (*Uredo rangelii*) is a fungus that grows on plants of the Myrtaceae family. It produces lesions on young, actively growing leaves, shoots, fruits and sepals which can cause the leaves to twist and buckle. In severe cases the rust can kill shoot tips causing a bushy habitat in young trees. Rust lesions create purple scarring with masses of bright yellow or yellow-orange spores.

### Should beekeepers be concerned?

Yes there is cause for concern because the bee industry is very reliant on a huge number of species in the Myrtaceae family that possibly could be affected by the rust. Young developing shoots and flower buds are potentially vulnerable to the rust causing damage or even killing them thereby affecting flowering events. Plants within the Myrtaceae family include eucalypts, tea tree, melaleuca, lilly pilly, bottle brush, corymbia and paperbark. Currently only 12 species have been susceptible to the rust in the field, including willow myrtle (*Agonis*), turpentine (*Syncarpia*), bottlebrush (callistemon), New Zealand Christmas bush (*Metrosideros collina*) and thready barked myrtle (*Austromyrtus inophloia*). This is good news but this limited host range may increase as the rust gets exposed to a broader number of potential host, mutates, or conditions become more suitable for its development.

### Quick History

This complex of diseases was native to South America but has spread into North America including Hawaii. The strain of rust in Australia is different to that found in Hawaii and Brazil.

The myrtle rust was first identified late April 2010 when a nursery took an infected sample of *Agonis* into the Gosford DPI office. This led to surveillance work to quantify the spread of the rust. In early July it was decided that eradication was possible and should be attempted. A quarantine area was declared for the Gosford and Wyong Local Government areas on the 23 July. Initially the rust was only found in this area but on the 26 August it was found (traced) outside the quarantine area at North Ryde (Sydney basin). The rust was first found in bushland on 25 October on brush turpentine in the quarantine area.

### Update as of 3 December

Of 1256 surveillance visits to 983 premises the rust has been confirmed on 87 properties from Ulladulla to the mid north coast of NSW of which 10 are bushland sites in the central coast area. Brush turpentine is the most infected in the bushland species but *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and *Callistemon salignus* have also been infected. Currently all infected properties found outside the quarantine area could be traced to movements from infected properties. To date the rust has only been identified on the eastern side of the range in NSW. Disease eradication has included destruction of plants or treatment with fungicides.

### Why attempt eradication

Many large industries are based on species in the Myrtaceae family such as forestry, nursery and smaller ones such as tea tree, beekeepers etc.. These industries could be impacted heavily by this strain of disease or a mutation of this strain. Being a rust my first belief was there was no way that it could be halted as the spores would be transported far and wide by many different methods including wind, water, birds, animals, insects etc, to a huge range of different hosts. Fortunately that is not the case. The rust so far has shown to have a limited host range and the main method of spread has been people moving infected plant material and contaminated equipment, clothing and vehicles. Short distance (10m) spread can occur by air. The characteristics of the Myrtle rust found in NSW may enable eradication hence the attempt.

### What can beekeepers do

Beekeepers are frequent users of bushland areas with high observation levels when it comes to plants. These two factors could assist in the surveillance efforts. If beekeepers become familiar with the symptoms of the Myrtle rust they can keep help in the surveillance efforts by keeping an eye out for the disease. Particularly those beekeepers who regularly use bushland around the central coast.

If Myrtle rust is suspected, please immediately contact the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**.

For more information and the latest details on Myrtle rust see the I&I NSW web site: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust>.



Myrtle rust infection on scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) leaves

## STOP PRESS

**On Friday 5 December Myrtle rust was discovered on a blue leafed stringybark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*) plantation seedling.**

# GEORGE POILE - My Pop

*By Jennifer Poile*

My name is Jennifer Poile, granddaughter of George (Edward) Poile. My pop passed away a few years ago now but he left behind his beekeeping business and the passion for honey. I never got the chance to ask him how he became involved in the beekeeping business; however, over the years I have pieced together the stories from my dad, my Nan and from friends and family.

George grew up in Wyong with his mother and moved in the 1940's to the Canberra district where he worked on various farms around the traps. He continuously grew fascinated with bees and the honey making process. Henry Drew, a great family friend remembers how George would speak passionately about his small contingency of hives. "At every opportunity, whatever the subject, George would invariably revert to stories about them (his bees)" (Source: Phil Leighton-Daily, 2010)

My Nan, Maureen Poile, likes to tell many stories of their courting days. She would take lunch out to Pop in the paddocks where he would extract honey in his extracting van. On one of these occasions, Nan was stung by a bee and her whole face swelled up like a balloon, so much so that she couldn't see out of one eye by the afternoon. She recalls how Pop was so kind and caring and all apologetic. If I close my eyes I can imagine the scene, like a romantic film. Standing in the paddock surrounded by the rolling hills, the purple tinge of Patterson's Curse, the smell of the blossom, the eucalypts swaying in the breeze, a brilliant blue sky with puffy white clouds, and a hallow of bees surrounding the magical scene as the couple fell in love.

Maureen and George married in 1958 and lived in a small place called Callala Beach on Jervis Bay near Nowra, the perfect place to raise a young family – Ian, Heather and my father Gary – and build the hives on the coastal climate. The process of extracting honey was first done in a tent on site. The 200 odd hives were moved out to the Temora region around ANZAC Day as a rule for the "Mugga" Iron Bark honey. This was a month after my father was born so he spent the first few months of his life in the tent with the honey extracting equipment: a beekeeper right from the start. The tent was replaced by a mobile "box" that sat on the back of the truck on site or placed on a stand at home where the process could continue. The challenge was getting the boxes up and into the makeshift extracting room as it was a fair lift, and then to climb up and extract the honey before getting back down to repeat the process.

After a few years Pop came across an ex-DMR caravan with a curved roof, much like the caravans the grader drivers would use. The van was modified for the purpose of onsite extraction of honey and fitted with a Jacko boiler to heat a "cappings reducer" and hand uncapping knife. It had an 4 frame basket type extractor and a large honey tank on the back of the truck. At the end of the day the honey would be "tinned up" into 60 pound tins and stacked on the truck. The truck was able to carry approximately 200 tins all together.

By the late '60's the Poile family had moved back "home" to Collector, between Canberra and Goulburn. In 1973, Pop built a "central" honey extracting plant out of concrete blocks and equipped it with a Pender Brothers Mark 2 uncapping machine and two Pender Brothers 42 frame

radial extractors. From here his business increased and with the use of the central extracting plant he increased his hive numbers to over 500. In 1980 the 'Lake George Apiaries' company was formed and both my father and my uncle Ian were working with Pop on the bees. They produced a lot of honey, mainly from Salvation Jane, Yellow Box, Iron Bark, String Bark and Spotted Gum. About this time, Lake George Apiaries "joined" Capilano Honey; becoming a shareholder with a supply agreement and started packing honey into 44 gallon drums and trucking them to the Capilano factory at St Mary's near Penrith. This year, Lake George Apiaries received a certificate of recognition from Capilano Honey Limited as a "Gold Supplier" with over 30 years of continuous supply to Capilano.

The Poile family would often get together with the Finn family for various 'business trips' that would double as a holiday. These trips were sure to be a great adventure with fun had by all. Recently the two families were united by the marriage of Ian and Lorain in October this year. Now, after so many years growing up together, they can all officially call each other brother and sister. I wish Ian and Lorain a long and happy life together and I'm sure George Finn and Pop are watching over us all.



*George Poile (r) and George Finn in the extraction plant at Collector*

I always loved giving Pop a big cuddle when I was little because he would always smell like honey. Every now and again I would open a jar just to smell it and remember. After Pop passed away I would play this film strip in my mind, little snippets of how I remember my pop in everyday life; feeding the dogs, pulling a stick out of a flat tire, eating honey on toast with a bit of cream, telling stories of the adventures of Dot and the Kangaroo that I'm sure he was making up. But I will always remember him in the honey shed painting boxes, putting honey through, teaching us the difference between drones, workers and queens. He would place a drone on our hand and let it run around, laughing at our fascinated faces. I remember one incident when I was 'helping' in the shed and I got so sticky that pop suggested that I have a shower with my clothes on because I would never be able to get them off!

All these moments make me smile because I know that Pop smiled everyday when he worked with passion to produce his 'liquid gold'.



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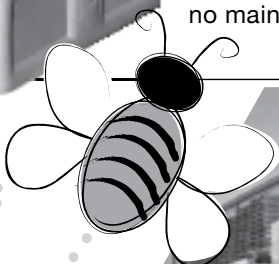
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# NSW APIARIES REGULATION 2005 (amended)

Please note this new regulation  
Current version for 1 November 2010 to date

## 12 **Exemption from requirement to be registered for interstate beekeepers**

(1) A person registered as a beekeeper under a corresponding law of another State or a Territory is exempt from the requirement under section 6 of the Act to be registered as a beekeeper if the person complies with the following conditions:

- (a) the person keeps bees in New South Wales for not more than a total of 3 months in any 12-month period,
- (b) the person notifies an inspector within 7 days of the arrival in New South Wales of any bees kept by the person and provides the inspector with the person's name, address and contact details,
- (c) the person's registration number as a beekeeper under a corresponding law is displayed on any beehive brought into New South Wales by the person.

(2) In this clause, corresponding law of another State or a Territory means the following:

- (a) the Livestock Act of the Northern Territory,
- (b) the Apiaries Act 1982 of Queensland,
- (c) the Livestock Act 1997 of South Australia,
- (d) the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 of Victoria,
- (e) the Beekeepers Act 1963 of Western Australia.

Beekeepers are still required to obtain a health certificate before they move beehives into NSW.

Beekeepers are still required to comply with other sections of our Act, such as notification of diseases and pests.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you.

### **Mick Rankmore**

Regulatory Specialists, Apiaries, Agricultural Compliance  
Industry & Investment NSW, PO Box 546 Gunnedah 2380  
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# AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE NEWS

## **New super clearing house for small business**

A free (and optional) super clearing house service is now available to small businesses with less than 20 employees to help them meet their super guarantee obligations.

The Small Business Superannuation Clearing House is administered by Medicare Australia and lets employers pay their super contributions to a single location in one simple electronic transaction.

Small businesses that register to use the service will have their super guarantee obligation discharged, as long as all of the following apply:

- ❖ they pay the correct amount;
- ❖ they pay by the super payment cut-off date;
- ❖ the payment is accepted by the clearing house; and
- ❖ the payment is not rejected by the super fund.

Employers who receive an employee's choice of fund nomination will have their choice obligation discharged if they pass the information to the clearing house within 21 days of receiving the choice of fund nomination.

Small businesses can register for the service by:

- ❖ visiting the Medicare website at [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/super](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/super); or
- ❖ phoning Medicare Australia on 1300 660 048

## **ATO benchmarking small business**

The ATO's new benchmarking process (which sets out average income and other benchmarks for 10 industries) means that, for small businesses, the detail and the quality of taxpayers' record keeping is about to take the spotlight.

The message from the ATO is clear: keep good records and the taxpayer has nothing to fear.

Fail to keep good records and the onus will be on the taxpayer to prove the ATO wrong, if and when they apply the benchmark and issue a default assessment.

### *What the ATO has to say*

The ATO says that in dealing with the cash economy it isn't their intention to issue arbitrary default assessments, and that there is a robust process they follow in relation to benchmarking audits.

The ATO has every intention of ensuring that taxpayers who report figures that do not line up with the benchmarks become aware that their record keeping is the only thing that will keep them safe from having the benchmarks applied.

There may be other compelling reasons, such as sickness or extended breaks from work which the ATO will take into account, but the bottom line is being able to prove the income and expenses that are reported. If not, the benchmarks **will** be applied.

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# AUSTRALIAN BEES BANNED BY USA

Courtesy "CATCH THE BUZZ"  
By Alan Harman

With little public fanfare, the United States has banned the importation of honey bee queens and package bees from Australia.

Minister Counsellor (Agriculture) Simon Smalley at the Australian Embassy in Washington and a spokesman for the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) both confirm the move made towards the end of last month.

Both say there is a "temporary suspension" of the imports, but the APHIS website has a one sentence reference that reads:

"Importation of honey bee queens and package bees from Australia is prohibited."

But the halt is not because of the Asian bee incursion in northern Queensland as many expected but because of something called slow paralysis virus.

In a letter sent to AHIS official Wayne. F. Wehling and seen by *Bee Culture*, Australian world bee authority Dennis Anderson of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization questions the decision, saying the virus has never been found in Australia.

"I wish to inform you that Slow Paralysis Virus has not been detected in or reported from Australia," Anderson says. "This is despite a number of surveys for it."

Anderson says this is borne out by the following:

"In the latest publication on SPV by Miranda et al 2010 ... it states on page 2525 that quote 'SBPV appears to be extremely rare, having been identified positively only in Britain, Fiji and Western Samoa (Allen & Ball, 1996; Anderson, 1990; Carreck et al., 2010; Martin et al., 1998), despite being included in surveys of Australia (Hornitzky, 1987), New Zealand (Todd et al., 2007), Scandinavia (Nordstrom et al., 1999) and Poland (Topolska et al., 1995). Only in Britain has it ever been associated with colony mortality (Carreck et al., 2010)'."

Anderson, principal research scientist at the CSIRO, says he is confident Australia knows what viruses are present in its honeybees.

"This is also borne out by the fact that since imports of Australian bees into the US started in 2005 (?), no viruses have been detected in Australian bees in the US that Australia didn't already know about and publish," the letter says.

He says the only exception is Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV). However, Anderson says, prior to this virus being named IAPV by a researcher in Israel, that virus had been regarded in Australia as a strain of Kashmir Bee Virus.

"If SPV was the primary reason for APHIS suspending imports of Australian honeybees into the US (and this is the reason given in the official response), then the process that led to the decision to suspend has been a travesty and it should be reconsidered," Anderson's letter states.

In another letter, also seen by *Bee Culture*, Tim Ryan of Biosecurity Australia tells Daniel Weaver, president of the American Beekeeping Federation, his organization was in the process to writing to APHIS to start to detail the lack of evidence for SPV being in Australia.

"Your request for a copy of the letter from APHIS has come back to Biosecurity Australia, but the decision is that we cannot release government to government correspondence without the permission of the originating party," Ryan states.

"However, I can tell you that the letter states that suspension is 'primarily due to slow paralysis virus' but then goes on to mention other viruses- TSBV and BVX.

"It quotes the findings of the APHIS Pest Risk Assessment from earlier in the year as support for the suspension 'until Australia can control or eradicate the Asian honey bee and provide data about the distribution of bee viruses and pests, particularly SPV."

"To me this leaves them a pretty wide operating scope outside SPV. In my interpretation the letter distribution of bee viruses and pests, particularly SPV' also precludes an increase in the export exclusion zone around the Asian bee area again quoting the 'unknown' distribution of SPV."

Australian bee exporter Warren Taylor, one of the pioneers of the US trade through his Australian Queen Bee Exporters Pty Ltd, says SRV does not exist in Australia.

"Somehow, somewhere it was reported that we had Slow Paralysis Virus which was incorrect," he says in an email to *Bee Culture*. "I guess the ban is all political so USDA is now trying to find something else to hang their hat on.

"Our bees have been tested so frequently as they entered the US I am sure that they would have found something if it actually existed.

"I guess US beekeepers will be very short of queens January to March as I visited Hawaii in June and saw problems they are having with Varroa and SHB."

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# SYDNEY ROYAL NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

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## Entries now open for 2011

Calling all honey producers and enthusiasts. Entries are now open for the Sydney Royal National Honey Show, which will return to the Sydney Royal Easter Show (the Show) in 2011.

The Sydney Royal National Honey Show, run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), awards Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in a variety of Commercial and Non-Commercial Classes.



The 2010 competition was an overwhelming success for Exhibitors, with six prestigious Sydney Royal medals being awarded in the Commercial Classes. Stand-out exhibitors included Bartholomews Meadery, who was awarded a Gold medal for their Wandoo medium colour liquid honey, and Malfroy's Gold, who won Gold in the creamed honey class for their Pure Soft Set Honey and went on to win the highest honour of the competition, The Phillip Carter Annual Trophy for Champion Commercial Exhibit.

The Non-Commercial Classes also delivered excellent results with RAS Award of Excellence Medallions awarded to Heritage Honey for their Champion Liquid or Natural Granulation Honey, and to Norm Webb and John Godwin, for their Champion Small Producers Honey Exhibit.



The 2011 competition will see the 'best of the best' fight it out again for these prestigious awards, and will also see the introduction of a new class especially for school entries. Schools are invited to enter three 500g glass jars of liquid honey, of any colour (0-120 Pfund honey colour reading). If you know of any schools that keep bees, please encourage them to enter.

The popular Honeyland stand will once again be returning to the Show, giving showgoers an opportunity to taste some of the different varieties of honey. Live demonstrations of working hives at the Bee-Zeebo will also return after its successful first year, with daily demonstrations taking place across the 14 days of the Show.

The 2011 Sydney Royal Easter Show will take place on 14-27 April at Sydney Showground. Judging for the Sydney Royal National Honey Show will take place pre-Show on Tuesday 12 April, with results available on the Sydney Royal website ([www.sydneymaral.com.au/honey](http://www.sydneymaral.com.au/honey)) on Wednesday 13 April.

To enter the 2011 Sydney Royal National Honey Show, or for Schedule information, visit [www.sydneymaral.com.au/honey](http://www.sydneymaral.com.au/honey). Offline entries will close on Wednesday 2 February and online entries on Wednesday 9 February. Please contact Elaine Rogers on (02) 9704 1449 or email [erogers@rasnsw.com.au](mailto:erogers@rasnsw.com.au) for further information.

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# US CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

*True Source Honey™ will launch certification program to help stem the tide of illegal honey*

(November 12, 2010) The True Source Honey™ Initiative is pleased to announce that it is launching a Certified True Source Honey™ Traceability Program starting in 2011. The program, which will be formally launched at the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference in January, is designed to certify the origin, food safety and purity of the honey being distributed and consumed within North America.

The new voluntary standard is open to interested honey companies (packers, producers, importers and exporters) under the True Source Honey program. It was developed by a multi-disciplined group of industry participants, including honey companies (packers, producers, importers and exporters), that want to ramp up industry participation in solving the problem of illegally sourced honey. An internationally recognized third party audit firm will begin conducting audits for honey companies, producers, exporters and importers starting in 2011. For those applying for certification, the firm will conduct unannounced inspections, review documents and collect samples for country of origin verification.

Every honey company is invited to become a member of the True Source Honey program. This will help create transparency within the industry and go beyond the current expectations of certifications and federal regulations with an additional layer of traceability that starts at the hive. Those who want to help eliminate illegally sourced honey and maintain honey's natural reputation of quality and safety are encouraged to participate.

Most imported and domestic honey is from high-quality, legal sources. However, some importers, brokers and honey companies are illegally circumventing tariffs and quality controls, selling honey to companies and consumers that is of questionable origin.

In addition to creating food safety issues for consumers, this threatens the honey industry by undercutting fair market prices and damaging honey's reputation for quality and safety.

For example, in September of this year, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Justice indicted 11 German and Chinese individuals and six corporations for allegedly participating in an international conspiracy to illegally import Chinese honey. Federal officials said the defendants allegedly imported more than \$40 million of Chinese honey, including honey that was adulterated with unapproved antibiotics. This indictment is the largest in a string of federal actions in the past two years directed at stopping illegal honey trade.

While these federal actions are critical, further action is needed by the industry itself. The Certified True Source Honey Traceability Program allows all interested parties along the honey chain to join together in stopping these illegal practices. Additional details of this exciting new program will be announced at the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference, a joint convention of the American Honey Producers Association, the American Beekeeping Federation and the Canadian Honey Council in Galveston, Texas, at the San Luis Resort, January 3-9, 2011.

The True Source Honey Initiative is an effort by a number of honey companies and importers to call attention to the problem of illegally sourced honey; to encourage action to protect consumers and customers from these practices; and to highlight and support legal, transparent and ethical sourcing. The initiative seeks to help maintain the reputation of honey as a high-quality, highly valued food and further sustain the US honey sector. Learn more at [www.TrueSourceHoney.com](http://www.TrueSourceHoney.com).

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# RECIPES

## Honey-Mustard Turkey with Gravy

1 x 5kg turkey  
1 bunch thyme  
1 head garlic, halved  
150g butter, softened  
1/4 cup Dijon mustard  
1/4 cup olive oil  
Sea salt flakes  
2 cups chicken stock  
**1/4 cup honey**



*Gravy*  
Pan juice from turkey  
1-12 ice cubes  
1/4 cup plain flour  
1 litre chicken stock

Preheat oven to 180°C. Rinse the turkey and pat it dry. Place the thyme and garlic in the cavity. Secure the cavity with a skewer and tie the legs with kitchen string. Gently loosen the skin from breast meat. Combine the butter and mustard and push under the skin.

Place turkey on lightly greased wire rack in a metal baking dish. Brush with oil, sprinkle with salt and pour stock into dish. Cover with lightly greased aluminium foil and roast for 1&1/2 hours. Remove foil and roast for a further 45 minutes, basting every 15 minutes, or until skin is golden and juices run clear. Remove from oven and brush with honey.

To make the gravy, remove the turkey from the baking dish, set aside and keep warm. Pour the pan juices into a jug with ice cubes and allow fat to solidify. Skim off 2 tablespoons of fat and place it in the baking dish. Discard the remaining fat, reserving the pan juices.

Add the flour to the fat and stir over medium heat for 4-5 minutes or until paste is golden. Add enough stock to pan juices to make 4 cups. Gradually whisk the liquid into the flour mixture. Stir for 4-5 minutes or until mixture boils and thickens.

Carve turkey and serve with gravy. *Serves 8*

## Honey Pudding

2 dessertspoons butter  
**1/2 cup honey**  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup All Bran,  
1 cup plain flour  
1/2 teaspoon carb soda  
1 egg  
1 cup raisins  
pinch of salt

Cream butter and add the honey gradually. Mix well and add the beaten egg, milk and All Bran. Sift flour, soda and salt together, stir in creamed mixture and add raisins.

Pour into a buttered mould, cover with greaseproof paper and steam for 2 hours. Serve with custard or cream.

## Baked Honey Glazed Ham

1 Pre-cooked ham (approximately 6 kg)  
**1 cup honey**  
1/2 cup orange juice  
1 tablespoon grated orange rind  
Whole cloves

Trim fat and rind from ham leaving minimal coverage of fat. Place ham in a roasting pan, fat side up. Bake at 125°C for 1&1/2 hours. Remove from oven, pour off excess fat.

Score ham diagonally with a sharp knife and place 1 clove in each diamond shaped area. Blend honey, orange juice and grated orange rind and spread on ham.

Return to oven for 40 minutes, basting frequently with glaze until nicely browned.

Serve hot with roasted vegetables.

## Wholemeal Honey Shortbread

250g butter  
**1/2 cup honey**  
1 cup wholemeal plain flour  
1 cup plain flour  
1/2 cup rice flour  
1/3 cup flaked almonds

Beat butter and honey together until creamy. Stir in sifted wholemeal, plain and rice flours. Knead on a lightly floured surface to form a soft dough.

Roll into a round shape approximately 24cm in diameter and lift onto a lightly buttered baking tray.

Pinch a decorative border around the edge and lightly mark into 12 portions with a knife. Pierce dough with a fork and press almond flakes firmly on top.

Bake at 160°C for 35-40 minutes, until golden. Cut through the 12 portions whilst hot and allow to cool on tray.

Store in an airtight container for up to 1 month. Will freeze successfully for 3 months.

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Executive Director: Mr Stephen Ware

*Excerpts from October & November Newsletters*

### UPDATE - AHBIC ACTIVITIES

AHBIC has established a "Varroa Treatment & Preparedness Committee and we are pleased to advise the members are: Des Cannon, Peter McDonald, Ian Roberts, Rod Pavy, Trevor Weatherhead, Bill Weiss & Julian Wolfhagen. On behalf of industry we thank them for taking the time to make themselves available to serve on this Committee.

The brief is: To examine and potentially register treatments that can be used by the Australian Industry for treatment of Varroa should it be introduced despite our precautions.

Treatments would need to be approved by Australian Pharmaceutical Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in addition to registrations already taking place at the moment namely: **Apistan (fluralinate) Apivar (amitraz) Bayvarol (flumethrin).**

It is envisaged that a physical meeting of the Committee will take place at the time of the AHBIC 2011 Annual General Meeting in South Australia. Prior to this a telephone hook-up would take place to identify potential treatments. HAL has kindly made available a consultant to assist in preparing applications to APVMA.

The committee would also remain a standing committee to evaluate any proposal which would come from industry which we would advertise and encourage. This is in addition to the production of a strategic plan and other projects currently being worked on by industry and Government.

On the subject of Varroa the Honey Bee Industry and Pollination Continuity Strategy Australia 2010 is being finalised in the first week of December and will be put out for final comment to Industry. Members of the above Committee will also be consulted to ensure it is relevant and acceptable to Industry.

Your Chairman, Lindsay Bourke, Trevor Weatherhead and Dr Denis Anderson attended the Consultative Committee for Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) workshop on Friday 29 October 2010. The meeting was held to review the current *Apis cerana* response in Cairns Queensland with the view of putting a recommendation to the National Management Group.

Following a meeting of the Primary Industry Standing Committee agreement was reached to continue the eradication in Queensland till 31 March 2011.

On the subject of research, industry is supporting the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre and we have been attempting to rally industry support for the funding of this initiative.

The issue of residue contamination has again raised its ugly head and attempts have been made by overseas competitors to degenerate the good name of Australian Honey. AHBIC continues to support Government and private industry initiatives to counteract these rumours and un-truths. It is the responsibility of all industry to rally against outrageous

claims and support the good name of Australian honey in both international and domestic markets

We have been notified of a shipment of handpicked queens and escorts which entered the Northern Territory on 7/10/2010 had a single a Small Hive Beetle Adult detected. As this poses a threat to the Northern Territory clean status, the Northern Territory requests that all cages for queens and escorts, meet their import requirements.

Those members of industry shipping bees to the Northern Territory are asked ensure compliance by contacting:

Vicki Simles  
Crocodile Technical Officer & Apiary Officer  
Dept of Resources, GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801  
Phone: 08 8999 2036 Fax: 08 8999 2146  
Mobile: 0401 115 853 Email: [vickisimles@nt.gov.au](mailto:vickisimles@nt.gov.au)

The issue of residue testing of imports has been raised with Food Standards Australia and further discussions are envisaged at shoring up the potential residue contamination with imported honey. It is only reasonable that imports meet the same standards expected of Australian Primary Producers to produce honey of the highest quality.

Following work prepared by Mr Trevor Weatherhead regarding Copper Naphthenate the AHBIC Executive resolved to approach the APVMA with a request that beekeepers be able to use Copper Naphthenate providing that when boxes were treated they were painted.

The Productivity Commission has released its long awaited draft report in respect of Rural Research and Development. The proposal itself is potentially detrimental for the Honey Industry as what is being proposed is that over a ten (10) year period the amount being paid for research by the Commonwealth Government would be reduced so that Industry would receive 50% less in Commonwealth funding. AHBIC is responding to the draft recommendations.

AHBIC has been approached again by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in respect of the free trade agreement between Australia and South Korea. Members may recall your Prime Minister visited Seoul and pledged Australia's support for this agreement and indicated that she hoped Australia's agreement would take effect on the same day as an agreement with the United States.

On the subject of trade the United States has suspended live bee imports and Industry continues to work with the Australian Government to re-open this market.

Discussions continue with the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry in relation to the possibility of raising increased contributions for the purpose of raising additional money for biosecurity.

### TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BEE IMPORTS INTO USA

We have been informed that effective immediately, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS) has placed a temporary suspension on imports of honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) from Australia, pending further Agency

investigation into regulatory actions. APHIS is removing Australia from the list of approved regions for the importation of adult honeybees (*Apis mellifera*). Please be aware that all shipments of adult honeybees from Australia that arrive at a US port of entry will be rejected. Shipments will be destroyed or re-exported at the importer's expense. Please pass this information onto anyone else who may be interested or affected by this action.

Please note that we have been actively trying to prevent this outcome but unfortunately without success, however we intend to pursue the matter further in an effort to resume exports of Australian honeybees to the US. I will advise you of any changes as they occur.

Robert Heard B.V.Sc, Manager, Avian, Bees & Biologicals, Animal Biosecurity Branch, Biosecurity Services Group  
Ph 02 6272 4836 Fax 02 6272 3399  
Email: robert.heard@biosecurity.gov.au  
Website: www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au

### **NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF QUEENS INTO TASMANIA**

Further to our earlier biosecurity advisory of 24 September 2010 the requirements for the importation of queen bees have been revised. A set of requirements put in place on 22 September 2010 were found not to adequately address the risk of small hive beetle and were amended on 20 October 2010.

The new amended requirements are:

Queen bees and escort bees may be imported provided that:

- **they are in new queen cages in which ventilation holes meet the following requirements:**
  - holes, including holes in mesh, are no larger than 2 mm x 2 mm; or
  - any slot longer than 2 mm is no wider than 1 mm; and
  - the queen cage is inspected by the beekeeper prior to loading the queen and escort bees and found to be free of Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*); and
  - the queen and escort bees are hand caught; and
  - the bees are inspected by the beekeeper at the time they are placed in the queen cages and found to be free of any evidence of Small Hive Beetle; and
  - once filled the queen cage is stored away from bee hives; and
  - the queen bee breeder has an active management program to control Small Hive Beetle; and
  - on arrival in Tasmania the queen cage is to be inspected by the beekeeper for Small Hive Beetle prior to placement in the hive. If there is any evidence of Small Hive Beetle the consignment is to be sealed in a plastic bag and an Inspector notified.

**The requirements and the certification form for queen bees can be found on the DPIPWE website**

Barry Calderbank, Communications  
Biosecurity and Product Integrity, DPIPWE Hobart  
Ph (03) 6233 6519 or Mobile: 0407 858 293

### **BAYER CROPSCIENCE ACQUIRES PRODUCT FOR CONTROL OF VARROA MITES**

Exosect - leading provider of Intelligent Pest Management solutions - has announced the recent acquisition of its unique product for the control of Varroa mites in honey bees by Bayer CropScience.

The acquisition was made for an undisclosed figure and gives Bayer CropScience worldwide rights to sell the product\*

and to further develop a portfolio of bee health products for the control of mites (including Varroa mites and tracheal mites) using Exosect's platform technology, Entostat\*.

Martin Brown, Exosect's Managing Director comments, "After 5 years of research, we are delighted to have developed a product for this incredibly important sector and we believe that Bayer is very well placed to bring the product to market". Brown continues, "Our platform technology, Entostat powder, has such huge potential in all sectors of pest control that despite our interest in the bee health sector we are unable to give the launch of this product the resource that it deserves. We are now able to use the substantial funds generated from this acquisition to continue to bring further exciting products through from our extensive product development pipeline".

This acquisition closely follows a recent round of investment secured by Exosect of over £2.25m and highlights the interest the company is generating in its technology pipeline.

"Bayer is aware of its responsibility as a producer both of crop protection products and of bee health products", said Dr. Franz-Josef Placke, Head of Development at Bayer CropScience. "Therefore, we are investing in research and development to provide beekeepers with sustainable solutions to improve the health of their bees and beehives."

### **Background information**

\*The product, developed by Exosect Ltd., is for the efficient and cost effective control of Varroa mites in honey bees. It is based on Entostat powder, Exosect's patented platform technology and the active ingredient thymol. The Entostat™ powder, which is derived from a natural 'food grade' wax, develops an electrostatic charge, even through very slight movement. When placed in contact with bees, the powder adheres to them and can be passed from one bee to another through direct contact. The technology means that only minute quantities of thymol are required, which reduces the potential for thymol residues in honey crops.

\*Entostat powder is the platform technology for Exosect's entire range of products. Derived from a natural 'food grade' wax which is sustainably harvested from palm trees, Entostat powder acts as a delivery system for a wide range of chemistry. As the name suggests "Entostat" powder exhibits electrostatic properties. Even through very slight movement, it develops an electrostatic charge. Insects similarly develop an electrostatic charge as they fly through air or walk across physical surfaces. When placed in contact with insects, the powder adheres to them and can be passed from one insect to another through direct contact. This platform enables the use of very low doses of natural or synthetic active ingredients (ai) which helps reduce the use of ai in a wide range of sectors.

**For more information visit [www.exosect.com](http://www.exosect.com)**

### **NEW FEDERAL MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**

The new Minister for Agriculture is Senator the Hon Joseph William Ludwig. He has been a member of the Australian Senate for the state of Queensland since July 1999.

**ON BEHALF OF THE AHBIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE STAFF, I WISH ALL A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2011.**

**THE AHBIC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 5PM WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER AND WILL REOPEN AT 9AM MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2011**

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To All Industry Members,

As most of you are probably now aware Chris Kath has moved on from Superbee after a very successful 7 years. To those of you whom I have had the pleasure to talk to, I would very much like to thank you for your support and understanding during this transition.

After now settling into the new role, I'm looking forward to introducing myself to those of you who I have not yet had the chance to meet. By all means, please feel free to pop in for a chat or give me a call anytime.

I would like to say a big thank you to our Operations Manager, Russell Pout, who I am looking forward to working closely with. Many of you may already know Russell and I am hoping that the two of us can get around to visiting some of you in the coming months.

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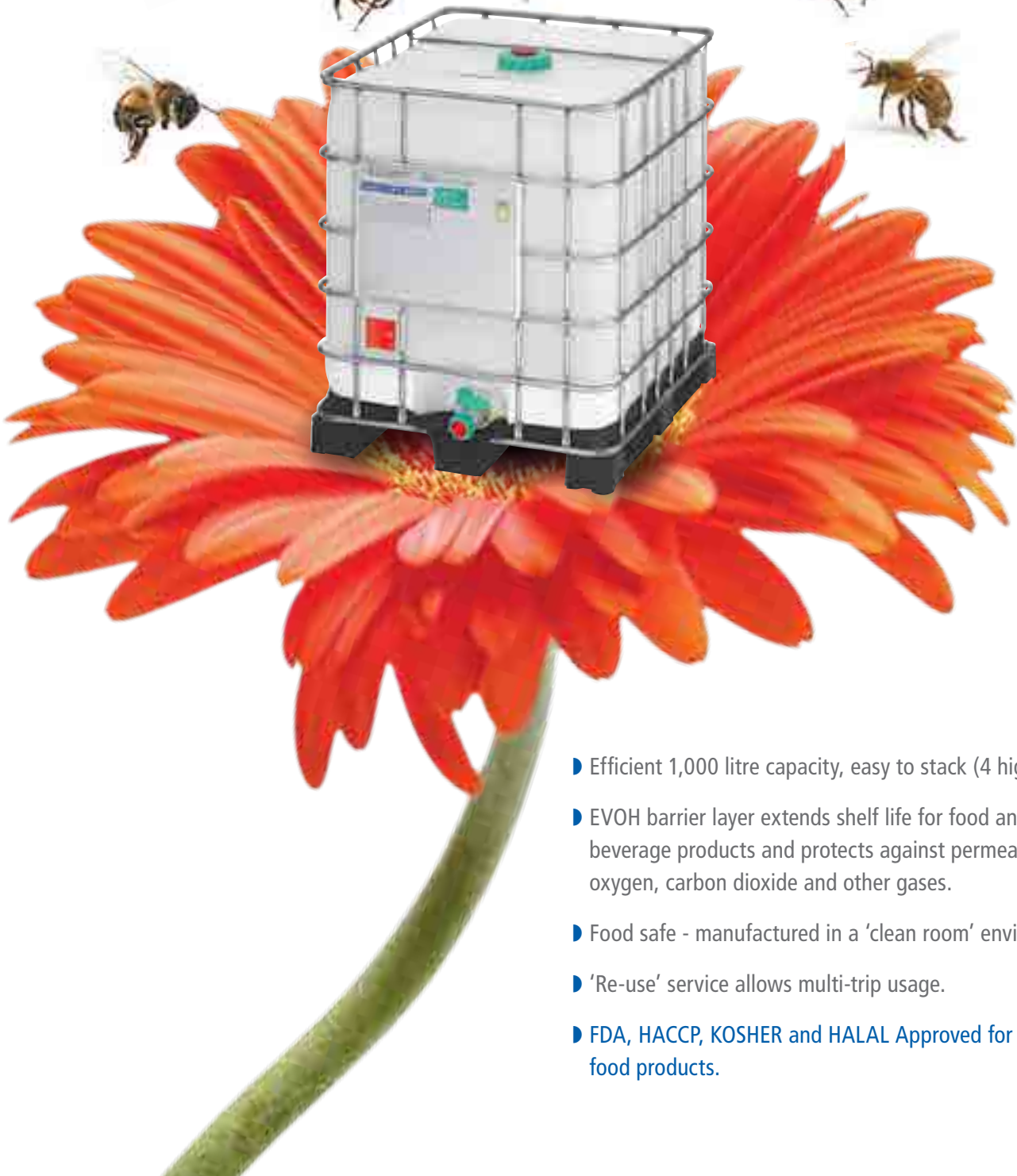
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