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Volume 2 Number 5

September - October 2009



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AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Published Bi-Monthly ISSN 1835 6621

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COVER PHOTO: Doug Somerville with a captivated audience at the DPI bee training day

Copy Deadline for Next Issue of *Australia's Honeybee News* - 1 December 2009

Pre-Paid Advertising Rates (GST Inclusive)

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Eighth Page
6 Issues	\$990.00	\$572.00	\$374.00	\$209.00
3 Issues	\$594.00	\$352.00	\$220.00	\$132.00
1 Issue	\$231.00	\$132.00	\$99.00	\$66.00

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Australia's Honeybee News goes free of charge to members of NSWAA. Non-member subscriptions are welcomed. Within Australia \$33, Overseas (airmail) AUS\$50. Forward payment to Editor, PO Box 352 Leichhardt NSW 2040 (Cheques payable to NSWAA).

The opinions expressed in articles published in *Australia's Honeybee News* are those of the authors and do not imply the endorsement of the NSWAA for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Season

Conditions are getting drier again with most of the Southern and Western halves of the State remaining or reverting to drought conditions (67% of the State is drought declared). The North is only just hanging on and pastoral conditions will be only 3-4 weeks from having to reduce stock or resort to hand feeding. Honeybee conditions are becoming very limited with all Canola now finished due to hot dry winds. Paterson's Curse is holding on in some areas in the South. Very few inland prospects for a very long period of time (perhaps 12 months) except for Red Stringybark in the South.

Most Central and Northern beekeepers will be considering the Eastern fall country which contains the most likely prospects with Grey Ironbark, Mahogany and Brush Box for the next 3 months. Small Hive Beetle is a concern to many beekeepers in these Coastal regions and may even prevent some beekeepers from utilizing the resource.

Crop

Some production from Canola has been taken, however, honey stocks held by beekeepers would be very low to non-existent with future production very limited.

Prices have firmed over recent weeks with prices offered of \$3.40-\$3.85. World honey stocks are reported to be very low. Drought and changing land use in Argentina has drastically cut production there. Europe, North America and Canada have had production difficulties due to hive losses during Winter-Spring.

AI Course

New South Wales is running a 2 stage course on AI of Honeybees from 8-16 December 2009. This is coming together well, with a lot of interest from all over Australia and New Zealand.

Sue Cobey is to be the Instructor. Sue is a world renowned bee breeder and geneticist. She has taught researchers and beekeepers from Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, France, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, China, India, United Kingdom, England, New Zealand, Korea, Israel, Egypt, Kuwait, and Nigeria.

The first stage is to be an introductory course from 8-11 December with a seminar on Saturday 12, then an advanced course 14-16 December.

The seminar is to be held at University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury Campus. This is open to anyone who is interested in more advanced breeding and genetics of the honeybee. There will be a small charge to cover costs for this seminar.

Book

An very interesting book was published last year entitled "*A World Without Bees*". The book overviews the decline in Honeybees throughout the World during the past few years, and highlights the effects on the World's food production for the future. This is a book that can make the general population aware of the importance of our Honeybees and makes the point that resources Honeybees need to recuperate, both before and after pollination as well as honey (nectar) and pollen resources must remain accessible to beekeepers hives.

River Red Gum Forests – Riverina

The assessment report on the River Red Gum Forests of the Riverina has been released and requires stakeholders to respond with comment by the end of the October.

This report is a 245 page document and Apiary is briefly mentioned on page 110, it is available on the web at: www.nrc.nsw.gov.au

The Executive is preparing a response to the assessment to ensure that access is continued for the beekeeping Industry.

State Executive

The executive met on the 24 September at Orange DPI building. Arrangements for Sydney Show were worked out and a preliminary 2010 Conference agenda and speakers were proposed.

Bruce Christie – Chief Vet NSW attended our Executive meeting and indicated his office and DPI (Tim Burfitt etc) would work together to assist Industry to work through and implement an improved AFB reduction program.

Vale

I would like on behalf of the Executive and myself to extend our sympathies to the family of Mr Mervyn Seagrave who passed away 8 October. Mervyn was the father of previous Executive member Robert Seagrave and will be sadly missed.

Bill Weiss

State President

HONEYBEE BLUES

This screening date of this documentary has been changed and it will now be shown on SBS on Tuesday, 1 December at 7.30pm.

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John Donnelly	Woolbrook
Terry Hampson	Burleigh Waters QLD
Mike Loncar	Collaroy
Dougal Munro	Orange
Walter & Wesley Robinson	Ulladulla
Shawn Sykes	Dubbo
Ross Webb	Maclean

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to hear of the death of Lynn Sawyer. Lynn was a member of both the Sydney and Central Tablelands Branch and a keen worker at the Sydney Show for many years. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family.

We were also saddened to hear of the recent death of Graham Kleinschmidt. Graham was a former HBRDC Chairman. Our sincere sympathies to his family.

NEW HEALTH CERTIFICATES


The Northern Territory has two new Apiary Health Certificate to be used for importation into the NT.

One certificate is for queen bees, escorts, queen cells & package bees, the other for apiary products and used appliances.

These certificates will be the only ones accepted for the Northern Territory.

If you require any further information or a copy of the Health Certificate Forms please contact:

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HONEY BEE BREEDING & GENETICS SEMINAR

When: Saturday the 12 December 2009
Where: The University of Western Sydney
(Hawkesbury)

The launch of the Wheen Foundation trust fund will be accompanied by a series of scientific talks on honey bee breeding and genetics on Saturday 12 December at the University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury), Richmond. Starting time 9:30am - lunch provided. It is necessary to register and a \$30 fee will be payable on the day. If you wish to attend please register by the end of November by emailing or leaving a message with either Julie Lockhart, Secretary of the NSW Apiarists' Association, phone: 02 9631 3934, email nswaa@bigpond.net.au, or Doug Somerville email: doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Speakers for the day already include Sue Cobey from the USA who will be conducting an introductory Instrumental Insemination course the week before the seminar and an advanced course the week following the seminar. Sue will speak on 'Bee Breeding programs in the USA'. Dr Ben Oldroyd from Sydney University will speak on 'The difficulties of bee breeding'; Dr Peter Oxley from Sydney University will speak on the 'Identification of genes related to hygienic behaviour in honey bees.'

Dr Rob Manning from Western Australia has agreed to attend and talk on hygienic behaviour within the Western Australian Bee Breeding program. Dr Charles Claudianos from the Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland has indicated he will attend. The title of his talk is yet to be determined.

There are a number of other scientists that have indicated their interest in attending and providing talks on the day. The titles are yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested in honey bee breeding I suggest that you put this date on your calendar and plan on attending. Sponsors for the day include, the Wheen Foundation, NSW Apiarists' Association, NSW DPI, University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury) and RIRDC.

EVALUATION DATA - AI QUEENS

The Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group had an article in most Australian beekeeping journals re the availability of AI breeder queens.

The evaluation data can now be seen on the AHBIC website: www.honeybee.org.au

If you have any questions contact:
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AMERICAN FOULBROOD (AFB)

The NSW State Executive has been looking at ways that AFB can be better managed and has proposed that more industry involvement is necessary.

The Executive is in the process of gathering information from the New Zealand and South Australia programmes.

The New Zealand programme has a coordinator within DPI dedicated to AFB. Industry assists the coordinator with inspections and clean up of infected material. Beekeepers become certified to identify AFB and other pests and diseases and provide an annual certificate of inspection for theirs and at times other hives. If a certificate of inspection is not provided each year, then those hives must be inspected by a certified inspector at the owner's expense.

This programme has gained majority support from the mainstream beekeepers of New Zealand and is showing to have reduced the incidence of AFB in New Zealand.

The South Australian programme involves a dedicated AFB inspector within DPI. At this point in time his job is part time and funded by a disease levy on hives. Again this programme is showing to be effective by figures released recently where 4,000 hives were inspected and 1500 hives destroyed.

It is the effective identification and conscientious clean up of infected and suspect material that will reduce AFB incidence.

As everyone in the industry is aware, every few years there is a large outbreak of AFB, sometimes from a neglected apiary, where the owner is getting too old or has taken another job and just left the bees to their own devices.

Other times we have observed where beekeepers have been using OTC regularly and inadvertently covered up an AFB infection until somewhere down the track it breaks out, usually with large numbers of hives involved.

The purpose of this discussion really is: Does Industry want to do anything both collectively and individually about AFB or does it want to carry on as we are and gradually slide into a clandestine OTC feeding regime to maximise production?

What must be kept in mind is, if Industry does not want to address AFB in a different way and try something else, then OTC residue honey will become the norm, and processors will have less residue free honey with which to blend out OTC to the levels required for markets, which require freedom or very low levels of OTC residue.

At our next New South Wales Conference it is proposed that this will be an agenda item and between now and then I hope to promote thought and discussion on this subject. The outcome from this will determine a large part of the future of Australian beekeeping.

Bill Weiss
NSWAA State President

APIS CERANA UPDATE

3 October 2009

On Tuesday 22 September, a nest was located in an attic in a Cairns city hotel in the centre of Cairns. This is IP46. This was the nest that was being searched for after the detection of the swarm, IP45, in Cairns city.

On Friday 25 September, a small swarm was found at White Rock. This is just south of Cairns and has had finds before. This is IP47. It was estimated at less than 100 bees.

On Monday 28 September, a swarm, which had been destroyed, was reported from Yarrabah. This is IP48. It was very small. This is ENE from the main Cairns area but still within the RA. The aboriginal ranger reported it and the area leading into Yarrabah has been searched with no foraging bees found.

With these small swarms, I am wondering if we are starting to see the effects of severe inbreeding?

No cerana have been found in Mareeba since the initial nest and swarm.

A new Community Engagement officer has started working with the Asian bees. It is crucial that we maintain the excellent support that has been received to date from the public.

There was a meeting with beekeepers on Thursday night, 1 October, in Mareeba to discuss the new RA and its implications for the beekeepers. The new RA can be seen at: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/AnimalIndustries_OtherAnimals/AHB-Restricted-Area-Map.pdf

Sugar feeding stations have not seen any cerana at them.

Bee eater pellets continue to be collected but are dropping off in numbers. There was a positive cerana find in pellets collected from McLeod Street in Cairns on 11 September. This would co-incide with IP46 which is well within flying range. This positive find reassures us that the method of checking the pellets is working and the positive is well within expectations so is not of concern.

STOP PRESS - 18 October 2009

Late on Thursday a small swarm was found on a wooden pallet in the port area of Cairns. This is IP49. The swarm was small, about the size of a fist. No more sightings of cerana at any location.

Trevor Weatherhead

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IN MEMORIAM

Murray Charlton DFC 1918-2009



Murray Charlton could claim a succession of “firsts” in Australian beekeeping. He and Alf Eastley of Goulburn imported the first boom loaders into Australia in 1956; he imported the first Cook and Beals Centrifuge into Australia sometime in the early 60s; he adopted the use of open topped 44 gallon drums for packing honey; he pioneered moving hives with open entrances.

Charlton was always willing to share his knowledge, and he did this without preaching to his fellow beekeepers. A report of a Field Day at Tamworth Showground on 27 September, 1957, said, in part:

...the principle attraction was a demonstration by Mr Murray Charlton of the electrically controlled Boom Type Hive Loader, which he imported from America following his tour of the United States last year.

...After lunch the demonstration of the Hive Loader aroused much interest. Mr Charlton also showed around his hive branding tool, which fits on the end of a blow lamp, an American hive tool, and a queen bank for holding a number of caged queens.

...To wind up a very successful field day Mr Charlton gave an address on his visit to the United States.

Still the innovator, in 1964 Charlton and Californian, Art Harrison were promoting the Fox-Harrison uncapping machine at the Tamworth Branch of the CAA, with a demonstration at McNall Brothers. (From the mid-60s many of the larger beekeepers were using one or other of the uncappers then available, but it was not until the end of the decade that sales of uncappers rose sharply.)

A loyal supporter of the Association, Charlton was President of the CAA in 1960. With Guy Pulling he helped establish a short-lived Bee Research Association and was one of a handful of influential queen breeders who, with John Rhodes of the QDPI, established the Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association in 1985. Charlton was the inaugural Secretary/Treasurer.

The first Australian Bee Congress held under the auspices of Apimondia was at Broadbeach, Queensland in October 1972. Charlton was one of five Australians to receive the International Apimondia Award.

In 1993 Charlton and Bob McDonald of Victoria each received the Goodacre Award, Australian beekeeping's most prestigious honour.

Charlton joined Capilano in the late 60s when the company expanded its supplier/shareholder base by creating Capilano Apiaries (NSW) P/L. He went on to become a respected Director of the Capilano Board.

After giving up commercial honey production at his central western headquarters at Orange Charlton moved to Terranora on the far north coast of NSW and established a highly regarded queen rearing enterprise. I particularly remember him supplying queen cells to beekeepers in Tamworth by packing the ripe cells in sawdust in polystyrene six-pack containers, which were then delivered by motor coach.

He finally retired from beekeeping altogether and moved up the coast a little way to Tweed Heads.

Murray Charlton was born in Sydney in the same year that his father, the Rev Leopold Charlton, was appointed Rector of St Martins, Killara. Charlton left the same home 22 years later to go to war. He was a crew captain in the RAF, flying long range anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic, first in Hudsons and later in B24 Liberators. He was awarded the DFC and steadily rose through the ranks. On his return to Australia at war's end he was based at the Richmond RAAF base from where he found time to visit Hawkesbury College, just across the road from the base. Neville Cutts well remembers Squadron Leader Charlton calling from time to time to discuss beekeeping with the then College Apiarist, Graham “Bumble” Smith.

There is much more that could be written about Murray and I hope that someone will fill the many gaps in my account of his career.

Murray is survived by his wife Lenore and their family.

Fred Benecke

DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

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



DPI STAFF BEE TRAINING ACTIVITY

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

Many staff within the DPI (now the Department of Industry and Investment) in recent years have had to deal with issues involving honey bees with a limited understanding on the subject. As there are only two honey bee technical staff within the advisory area of the DPI (Nick and myself) it was thought that a training day for interested persons could be an avenue of lifting the knowledge of DPI staff on the honey bee industry. In the past I have been asked by staff in federal departments in Canberra for a basic training exercise to bring them up to speed with what the industry and the animal (the honey bee) is all about. This should assist everyone involved in making every ones job easier in the future regarding communication, language and terminology issues. Therefore Tim, Nick and myself conducted a training day (awareness activity) for those with no experience with honey bees or the beekeeping industry within the NSW DPI who were likely to be dealing with honey bee issues in the foreseeable future.

To this aim we asked for the assistance of Vicki Lockwood, from Goldfields Honey. Nick arranged a mini bus for all participants and Tim coordinated all the participants in Orange. The activity included:

- Driving to a travelling stock reserve near Cudal, visiting an apiary belonging to the Lockwoods on canola where the participants were supplied with protective clothing and shown the inside of a bee hive. This was followed by significant discussion on the behaviour of honey bees, how beekeepers manage bee hives, where the bees have been moved over the last 12 months, pesticide issues on canola, pest and disease issues and much more.
- Returning to Orange we visited another apiary which was in the process of being unloaded, again on a travelling stock reserve. In this case the bee hives had just arrived from Robinvale in Victoria where they were pollinating almonds.
- From here we travelled to Lucknow to inspect storage sheds, extraction facilities and a honey packing line in operation all part of Goldfield's Honey enterprise.
- The last visit was to the Beekeepers Inn Café on the Bathurst road where the participants could get a strong appreciation for the range of honey products on sale and they also viewed the DVD 'Honey Bee Blues', which highlighted some of the risks to the Australian beekeeping industry
- A running commentary was provided all day by me in relation to the keeping of honey bees in Australia and the many issues that beekeepers face. Vicki Lockwood was our very capable guide for the day.



From the left:

Kathy Gott - Strategy Leader, Plant Risk Management, Tim Burfitt – Manager, Intensive Livestock Industry Development, Bronwyn Hendry - Policy Officer, Animal Biosecurity (Chair of the Honey bee biosecurity group), Alan Dawes - Ranger, LHPA, Satendra Kumar - Manager, Plant Biosecurity Risk Management, Doug Somerville – Technical Specialist Honey Bees, Mark Scott - Biological & Chemical Risk Management, Susanna Driessen - Policy Officer, Plant Biosecurity Risk Management, Simon Oliver - Agricultural Protection Officer (Policy) Emergencies, Weeds & Pest Animals, Rory Arthur - Program Leader, Animal Biosecurity and Risk Management Unit, Murray Spicer - Manager Horticulture Industry Development, Suzanne Robinson - Manager General Emergencies Preparedness & Response and Nick Annand – Apiary Officer.

Comments from the participants:

Kathy – We had a great day and an interesting range of things to see and do (given that not all aspects of the process from hive to shop could be operational at one time). I found it particularly helpful to experience how hives work. Vicki and Grant were excellent hosts.

In relation to my role, I gained a greater awareness of honey bees as livestock. I understand that there were difficulties fitting bees under the Animal agreement and in my opinion it seems that there could continue to be difficulties of fit, although due to different issues, for *mellifera* bees under PlantPlan (the emergency plant pest response plan). Insects that usually rate a mention under PlantPlan are pests we might want to get rid of (such as *Apis cerana*), not protect (such as *Apis mellifera*).

Bronwyn – The bee training day provided me with a snap-shot of a medium sized, vertically integrated honey business. I enjoyed seeing all aspects of the business including working with the hives, seeing transportation of hives, extraction of honey and packing of product, and a retail “honey house”. This has given me a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by people in the bee industry.

Alan - The day gave me a better overall understanding of the Bee industry and the effects Varroa will have on the economy if it is detected in Australia. The day also gave me a better appreciation of the day to day management of the bees which will allow me to manage TSRs more efficiently especially with regard to chemical use.

Satendra – Honey bees do impact on a wide range of plant industries via pollination and therefore may be included in the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed for exotic pest and disease purposes. Whilst bee management within the Department of Industry & Investment NSW remains as it functions, some key decisions in future may need to be vetted by the Chief Plant Protection Officer rather than the Chief Veterinary Officer alone. I wanted to update myself with the key pests and diseases and issues that affect bees. Look forward to more learning in due course.

Mark - Better understanding of the risk pesticide use poses to commercial bee hives.

Simon - very informative, I have never really delved into how the system works...and how ultra-intensive it really is. From a work perspective, I obviously have some connection with the apiary industry through emergency management such as plague locust control, bushfires and drought (subsidies for bee food, water). I wasn't aware that it can be quite a task to shift bees - and from a locust spraying or bushfire perspective that is important to know....making early communication vital. It was interesting from a drought perspective...how hard it has been lately for apiarists to seek places with food for honey and survival.

Rory – As a Planning Manager in the SDCHQ for many Emergency Animal Disease Responses, the update reminded me how to apply Ausvet plans for Bee EADs and of the issues to be addressed in an emergency response plan.

Murray - For me it was a chance to update my memory and get a better perspective on pollination requirements for horticulture once/if Varroa becomes entrenched.

Nick - Hopefully it achieved (and I think it did) an overview of how commercial bee operations work, providing an insight into the management of individual colonies and apiaries and how it fits into a commercially viable business. The business we showed them allowed them to see the whole production line regarding honey from hive to shops and also hear about other bee based enterprises (diversification) such as packaged bees, queen rearing and pollination services. It also highlighted issues of concern and logistics regarding running a honey bee business, such as the use of pesticides, pest and disease threats (eg. Varroa, Asian bees, AFB), honey contamination, market access, pollination security, distances travelled, the certainty/uncertainty of honey crops, access to public and private lands and diminishing resources available to beekeepers.

In summary the day was a big success and we are particularly appreciative of the assistance and time offered by the Lockwood family in making the day possible.



Grant Lockwood sharing his knowledge

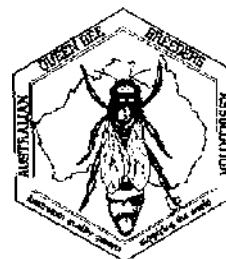


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from I&I NSW

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



I will be providing Australia's Honeybee News with a short column each publication on general apiary industry and department issues.

Department renaming

On the 11 June 2009 the NSW Premier announced the creation of 13 new "super departments". This saw the Department of Primary Industry combined with 2 other former agencies and 6 authorities to form the Department of Industry and Investment. So please when you call us for assistance (formerly NSW DPI) do not hang up when you hear the new name thinking you have the wrong number, it is just a name change.

WARNING –Locust Spraying

The warmer than usual conditions over winter and early spring has resulted in locust hatchings a few weeks earlier than usual. Most of the activity so far is around the Coonamble - Quambone and Nyngan - Tullamore areas. Many bands have been spotted and spraying had started in the Coonamble region at the time of writing. So if you have bees in the western regions of the State make sure the land managers of each of your apiary sites are aware of the presence of your bees and they have your contact details. Hopefully this will prevent any unnecessary bee losses from locust spraying.

For all the latest information and further details on locust activities follow links on the web addresses below:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/insects/general/locusts>

Canola

Similarly, be aware that many canola crops are moisture stressed and as a result the number and pressure from aphids is increasing. If farmers need to spray to control aphids it is best if they can contact and discuss any issues regarding bees in the area with the beekeeper. So be sure that farmers can readily contact you if needed. The harder you are to track down, the less likely the farmer will bother about contacting you when spraying.

AFB

If you have not already done so, it is a good time to go through your hives to inspect for AFB. There seems to be a lot around this season so please examine your hives closely and catch it early before it is spread further throughout your apiary this season. If you find some AFB don't forget it is a legal requirement you inform the department within 24 hrs of finding it. This information helps fight the battle that AFB is a major problem to the bee industry that needs attention.

MINIHONEYMONEY RELEASED

Industry & Investment NSW latest decision support system release is now available to assist honey producers in their business management. *MiniHoneyMoney* allows producers to monitor their cost of production on an annual basis and enables producers to focus on critical parts of their business.

MiniHoneyMoney is a single page snapshot of a honey business and show what it has cost to make a kilogram of honey or maintain a hive for a year. Producers can quickly see the impact of a range of cost on their bottom line.

The system also allows producers to account for the value of their own labour and depreciation in analysing the business' performance. These are two factors often forgotten by many business owners, but are important in get a true indication of the business profit.

MiniHoneyMoney is a Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet that is simple to use with only one page of data entry. As data is entered the user can immediately see the reported parameters updated on the same page. The required data is easily obtained from production records and cashbook or financial statements from an accountant.

Knowing the cost of production is a key aspect of any business. The relativity of prices received to the cost of producing the product not only effects daily decisions on how to produce the product, but can also affect the long term planning and focus of the business. Thus knowing accurately the cost of production, and its key components, is a critical factor in business management success. *MiniHoneyMoney* has been specifically design to make this calculation easy.

Data generated by *MiniHoneyMoney* is also compatible with the comparative analysis system, BenchMarkBiz. This will allow a group of producers who are willing to provide and share their information to participate in a comparative analysis. This will allow producers to interrogate their production systems and costs in even more detail.

MiniHoneyMoney can be downloaded from the honey bee management section of www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, or obtained by emailing greg.mills@industry.nsw.gov.au.

For NSW honey producers who do not have access to Microsoft Excel® a fax back service is also available. Producers can fax in their information and a completed report will be faxed or emailed back to them.

**For more information on this service
or *MiniHoneyMoney* contact Greg Mills
on 02 6750 6312.**

BALLOT RESULTS

Successful applicants for the NPWS Bee Sites (as advertised in March - April 2009)

CCA Zone 2 Pilliga East	Pilliga East	1102	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Pilliga East	1143	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Pilliga East	1190	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Pilliga East	1191	Mid Western Honey - Weethalle
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga East	Cubbo	776	Ian Woolfe - Raglan
	Pilliga East	566	Steve Johnson - Dungog
	Pilliga East	601	C & T Klingner - Glen Innes
	Pilliga East	662	Ben McIntyre - Inverell
	Pilliga East	902	Steve Johnson - Dungog
	Pilliga East	989	B D & C A Woolfe - Glen Innes
	Pilliga East	1221	Casey Cooper - Tingha
	Ruttley	1335	B & M Weiss - Glen Innes
CCA Zone 1 Timmallallie	Timmallallie	1465	G D & K E Porter - Keiso
	Timmallallie	1466	Robert Michie - Moore Creek
	Timmallallie	1467	Mid Western Honey - Weethalle
	Timmallallie	1529	G D & K E Porter - Kelso
	Timmallallie	1530	Ray Jones - Narrabri
	Wittenbra	1507	Ray Jones - Narrabri
	Wittenbra	1571	G D & K E Porter - Kelso
	Wittenbra	1584	Steve Johnson - Dungog
CCA Zone 3 Trinkey	Trinkey	2	R B & S Porter - Yetholme
	Trinkey	6	R B & S Porter - Yetholme
	Trinkey	18	Steve Johnson
	Trinkey	28	M L & D J Porter - Yetholme
CCA Zone 1 Goonoo	Goonoo	10	Australian Queen Bee Exporters - Blayney
	Goonoo	139	Sunderland Apiaries -Dubbo
	Goonoo	141	Glenrock Apiaries - Mudgee
	Goonoo	165	Sunderland Apiaries -Dubbo
	Goonoo	189	Sunderland Apiaries -Dubbo
	Goonoo	199 (burnt site)	Sunderland Apiaries -Dubbo
	Goonoo	201	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
	Goonoo	203	Daniel Warman - Dubbo
	Goonoo	204	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
CCA Zone 3 Goonoo	Goonoo	140	Daniel Warman - Dubbo
	Goonoo	109 (burnt site)	Glenrock Apiaries - Mudgee
	Goonoo	123 (burnt site)	Australian Queen Bee Exporters - Blayney
	Goonoo	134 (burnt site)	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Goonoo	191	Sunderland Apiaries - Dubbo
Coolah Tops National Park	Warung	1	Steve Johnson - Dungog
Pilliga NR	N/A	1450	Robert Michie - Moore Creek
	N/A	1643	Ian Woolfe - Raglan
	N/A	1530	Ben McIntyre - Inverell
	N/A	1351	B & M Weiss - Glen Innes
Goobang NP	N/A	N/A	Steve Johnson - Dungog
CCA Zone 3 Goonoo	Goonoo	83 (burnt site)	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
	Goonoo	66 (burnt site)	Mid Western Honey - Weethalle
	Goonoo	67 (burnt site)	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
	Goonoo	68 (burnt site)	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Goonoo	57 (burnt site)	Shawn & Dwayne Sykes - Dubbo
	Goonoo	58 (burnt site)	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
	Goonoo	59 (burnt site)	Wendy Roberts, Rainforest Honey - Batemans Bay
CCA	Timmallalia	1508 (burnt site)	Robert Michie - Moore Creek
	Timmallalia	1519 (burnt site)	Ben McIntyre - Inverell
Zone 1 Timmallalia Pilliga NR	N/A	1431	Ben McIntyre - Inverell

NPWS VACANT BEE SITES

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

**** The below sites are still vacant. If they are not taken up by beekeepers they will be lost to industry.**

Notification of vacant apiary sites in the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area (CCA) within the Western Branch of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

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

CCA Zone Name	Former State Forest Name	Site Number	Burnt Site*
CCA Zone 1 Kwiambal	Arthurs Seat	1	
	Arthurs Seat	2	
CCA Zone 1 Bullala	Bullala	3	
	Bullala	4	
	Bullala	5	
CCA Zone 2 Terry Hie Hie	Courallie	33	
	Courallie	36	
	Courallie	37	
	Courallie	38	
CCA Zone 3 Pilliga East	Pilliga East	1318	
CCA Zone 1 Dthinna Dthinnawan	Bebo	54	
	Bebo	19	
	Bebo	20	
	Bebo	32	
Pilliga NR	N/A	1408	
	N/A	1410	
	N/A	1429	
CCA Zone 3 Goonoo	Goonoo	85	Burnt 06/07

Applications close on 31 December 2009

All applicants must be registered beekeepers.

If there is more than one interested party, the Association will conduct a ballot.

Applications can only be made in writing to: The Secretary, NSW Apiarists' Association Inc.
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WHEEN FOUNDATION

To support Beekeeping In Australia

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 Wheen Foundation is a not-for-profit Public Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Foundation will be officially launched on Saturday 12 December 2009 during a seminar at University of Western Sydney on bee genetics and stock improvement.

An AI course for beginners will be conducted at UWS on the three days preceding the seminar, to be followed by an Advanced AI course from 14-16 December at the Wheen Foundation.

The Wheen Foundation will be located at the Richmond property of Gretchen Wheen. This comprises a beautiful 18 acre (7.2 ha) farm, fronting the Nepean River. It is well-known for its suitability for queen raising. Currently, there is a well-equipped AI laboratory and other facilities. In time, there will be small conference facilities and some limited accommodation to support the activities of the Foundation.

The Founding Directors and Members of the Foundation are: Max Whitten, Linton Briggs, Gretchen Wheen and Colin Powell. Additional Directors and members will be sought in time.

If you would like to learn more about the Wheen Foundation, or are interested in helping the Foundation achieve its objectives, please contact one of the Directors. Three Directors, Max, Linton and Gretchen are well known in the industry. Colin Powell has served as Gretchen's accountant for many years.

The objects of the Foundation are purposely wide ranging. In brief, they are:

- 1. To advance scientific knowledge and research into bee keeping in Australia, including but not limited to the systematic breeding and researching into honey bees to genetically improve strains of honey bees for the benefit of the Australian Apicultural Industry and in the national interest of Australia generally.*
- 2. To provide means for research and development of the bee keeping industry in Australia, including research into disease, parasites, other pests, predators and nuisances; and to promote entomological study and, by collaboration with other entities, to increase knowledge and develop remedies to prevent, eradicate or minimise endemic and/or exotic threats to the health and existence of honey bees.*
- 3. To collaborate with other entities to foster investigation into the capacity for Australian Native Social Bees and European Honey Bees to effectively improve production of plants through pollination.*
- 4. To facilitate improved methods of bee-keeping and promote better standards and practices.*
- 5. To develop, advocate and promote alternative or new methods, practices and procedures to better regulate and protect beekeeping.*
- 6. To promote the marketing and advertising of products and by-products of beekeeping in Australia and elsewhere.*
- 7. To provide means for the education, advancement, accommodation, training and support for bee-keepers and other persons, including researchers, teachers or operators in or associated with beekeeping.*
- 8. To generally promote the betterment of bee-keeping in Australia.*

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POLICE GET BEE TRAINING FROM DPI

A second training course was conducted for the Police Stock Squad Detectives at Batemans Bay at the end of May. The first course took place in Batemans Bay four years ago and from this the industry has been well served by the police. About eight persons were involved in the original course which went over two days. The second course was conducted over three days and involved detectives from five regions including Bega, Bathurst, Orange, Wagga Wagga and Queanbeyan.

The detectives in both cases had no prior experience with honey bees. I quote from feedback received from one participant, *"the course really helped us put on the map bee hive theft and vandalism issues with our senior supervisors"*.

I think it's fair to say that if police with training in bees are now contacted with any theft or vandalism issue involving bee hives, then they are going to be more competent and familiar with the subject.

The courses covered issues such as hive components, terminology, habits and practices of commercial beekeepers in placing hives and sourcing bee sites, OH&S issues with bee stings, etc., the Apiaries Act, and DPI roles, etc. The police were provided with plenty of opportunities to stick their hands into a bee hive and explore the workings of a colony.

Most police involved in these exercises supplied their own protective gear, thus they are fully equipped to investigate bee hive issues close up and personal. This years' course was conducted by Paul Anderson, Senior Inspector; Wayne Haigh, Apiary Inspector; Mick Rankmore, Regulatory Specialist (Honey Bees); and Andrew Sanger, Manager of the Regulatory Program. The original course was conducted by Doug Somerville, Bruce White, Paul Anderson and Wayne Haigh.

It is hoped that this training will be taken up by members of the Stock Squad in the north of the State at some future date.



Left to right:

Rural Crime Investigators; Tony Hinton (Queanbeyan), Brent Harris (Wagga), Bob Newman (Bathurst), Steve Heffernan (Bega), Andrew Sanger (Manager Agricultural Compliance, Industry & Investment NSW), Sean Beckett (Orange)



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by

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What makes *Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey* unique is the insight into the lives of one family's involvement as beekeepers since the 1880's. Their intricate knowledge and passion for honey, the bees that harvest the many and varied nectars, and the Australian bush have been passed down through four generations. Jodie Goldsworthy shares some of their stories with love and pride, as well as a wealth of knowledge about Australian honey and how to use it in our kitchens.

This full colour book will stand out on any coffee table or kitchen. It has been written following hundreds of requests for such a publication from visitors to the Beechworth Honey Experience the hugely successful educational jewel created by Beechworth Honey's to positively and innovatively promote Australian honey. The centre receives more than 80,000 visitors a year and is open every day except Christmas day in historic Beechworth. One of Jodie's biggest motivators is to bring greater returns to Australian beekeepers to improve their viability and future. Jodie draws the link between beekeepers and food produced in Australia through honeybee pollination. Through releasing *Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey* Jodie hopes to educate the community further of the importance of beekeeping through a beautifully photographed and edited journey of Australian honey.

Cooking, Tasting, Living Honey will be available through selected outlets and in store at the Beechworth Honey Experience ready for Christmas in early December. If you would like to pre order this beautiful book for your family or friends we are now taking pre release orders which can be signed, gift wrapped and delivered just in time for Christmas. The special pre sale price is \$39.95 (including postage and handling within Australia) and orders can be placed by telephone (02) 6033 2322 or email to info@beechworthhoney.com.au.

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RECIPES

Honey Diced Lamb

500g lean cubed lamb
1 medium eggplant, about 250g, cut into 2cm cubes
1 large green capsicum cut into squares
16 baby mushrooms
3/4 cup brown rice
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Cook rice in boiling water for 25 minutes or until tender. Drain. Heat grill. Thread meat onto eight metal skewer alternating with the eggplant, capsicum and mushrooms.

In a bowl, mix together the honey, soy sauce, garlic and cinnamon. Brush liberally over one side of the skewers. Place this side under the grill, cook 4-6 minutes.

Turn skewers, brush with remaining sauce, cook another 4-6 minutes. Serve lamb kebabs on a bed of rice with salad. Serves 4

Honey Mustard Roasted Potatoes

4 large baking potatoes
1/2 cup Dijon mustard
1/4 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon crushed dried thyme leaves
Salt and pepper, to taste

Peel potatoes and cut each into 6 to 8 pieces. In large saucepan, cover potatoes with salted water; bring to a boil. Simmer potatoes 12-15 minutes, until barely tender. Drain.

Combine mustard, honey and thyme in small bowl. In large bowl, toss potatoes with honey-thyme mustard until coated evenly. Arrange potatoes on foil-lined baking sheet, sprayed with vegetable cooking spray.

Bake for 20 minutes at 190°C, or until potatoes begin to brown around edges.

Season to taste with salt and pepper before serving.

Mint and Apple Whip

750g cooking apples, peeled and cored
3 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons water
6 large mint sprigs
5 tablespoons natural low-fat yogurt
2 egg whites
1 tablespoon raw sugar

Slice the apples into a pan and add the honey, water

and mint, reserving the top leaves for decoration. cover and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes; discard the mint. Sieve or work in an electric blender until smooth. Leave to cool then mix in the yogurt.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff, then whisk in the sugar. Fold into the apple mixture. Spoon into individual dishes and decorate with the reserved mint to serve. Serves 4 to 6

Muesli

(Makes 3½ cups)

1/3 cup honey

1/4 cup butter
2 cups rolled oats
1/4 cup each of:

Bran
Wheat germ
Coconut
Nuts (chopped)
Sunflower seeds
Sesame seeds

1/2 cup mixed dried fruit of your choice

Warm honey and butter (approximately 30 seconds) on HIGH until honey is melted, stirring once.

Place dry ingredients in a large container and stir in honey mixture. Cook on high for 6 to 7 minutes, stirring several times. Stir in selected dry fruit.

Leave to go cool then store in an airtight container.

Gingerbread Biscuits

1 1/2 cups honey

3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg
5 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon ground ginger
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves

In large bowl, cream honey and butter until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon and cloves; mix until combined. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours. When dough is chilled, divide dough in half; return one half to refrigerator and make cookies with other half. Dust work surface and dough lightly with flour. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick. Cut into gingerbread men shapes using a cookie cutter; transfer to well-greased baking sheet. Bake at 175°C for 10-12 minutes. Remove cookies from sheet and cool on wire rack. Repeat with remaining dough.

Makes about three dozen cookies depending on the size of your cookie cutter.

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NEW ZEALAND SAYS NO TO AUSSIE HONEY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has considered the findings of an independent panel report on the requirements governing proposed future imports of bee products from Australia.

MAF developed the requirements, known as an Import Health Standard (IHS), in 2006 but it was legally challenged by New Zealand's bee industry. A subsequent judgement by the Court of Appeal quashed the IHS.

In 2008, legislation was passed reinstating the IHS, but requiring a suspension on imports of Australian honey until an independent review panel had reported to the MAF Director General on aspects of the scientific evidence and risks associated with the proposed imports, and the Director General had then made a determination on whether any amendment to the requirements was required.

The Director General has now reviewed those findings – in particular its recommendations for MAF to further consider science and risks posed by four organisms with potential impacts on the bee industry: European foulbrood (EFB); *Paenibacillus alvei*; *Nosema ceranae*; and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV).

The report concluded that there is no need to make changes to the IHS as it relates to measures to manage the risks associated with European foulbrood.

However, due to a lack of information and/or uncertainty in relation to the other three organisms – *P.alvei*, *N. ceranae*, and IAPV – the Director General has concluded that he is unable to make a judgement about aspects of the IHS relating to those organisms until MAF undertakes further work. He also believes that recent evidence confirms the presence of *P.alvei* in New Zealand and therefore MAF will be approaching ERMA to have the status of this organism reassessed.

N. ceranae and IAPV are organisms that emerged internationally as disease threats for beekeeping during the course of the MAF risk analysis and import health standard development process. Although MAF did look into the risks associated with these diseases late in the development of the risk analysis, there remains uncertainty as to their presence or absence in New Zealand and their susceptibility to the proposed heat treatment.

MAF will therefore undertake surveillance to determine the presence or absence of *N. ceranae* and IAPV in New Zealand. Work will also begin on a supplementary risk analysis for these organisms to help make decisions on their management should they prove not to be present in New Zealand.

This work programme, while potentially taking up to two years to complete, may be completed sooner.

Honey imports from Australia will not resume until this work is completed and the IHS is able to be reassessed in the light of the results of this work.

The full independent panel report is available at:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/beepric.aus.htm>

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Executive Director: Mr Stephen Ware

AHBIC NEWS

August/September Excerpts

ASSESSMENT OF HIVE-BASED LEVY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) has engaged independent consultants Garland Outcomes Pty Ltd to assess the feasibility of revising the levy arrangements for the honeybee industry.

The honeybee industry currently pays levies on sales of honey and queen bees, with levied funds being primarily used to support residue testing services for honey, and industry-supporting research and development investments. The project has arisen from a proposal by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) that current levies might be replaced by a unified hive-based levy paid by all beekeepers in Australia on each managed beehive.

The purpose of this project is to provide independent advice to the honeybee industry on the potential implications, costs and benefits of the proposed changes, and the required processes and activities that would be involved in the establishment of such a levy.

For any changes to levy arrangements, the Commonwealth's R & D levy principles, noted below, need to be considered and addressed:

- Is there a significant market failure in the industry to warrant a change to the existing levies structure?
- Does the proposed levy have majority support from potential levy payers?
- Has there been a reasonable attempt to inform all potential levy payers of the proposal and allow them to comment?
- Has the initiator of the levy proposal provided an analysis of any arguments opposing a levy?
- Is there an estimate of how much levy would be raised, a clear plan of how it would be utilised and the way(s) it would benefit levy payers?
- Is there majority support on the levy imposition and collection mechanism, or demonstration that the mechanism is equitable?
- Is the levy imposition equitable between levy payers?
- Is the levy imposition related to the inputs, outputs or value of production of the industry?
- Is the levy collection system efficient and practical, and does it impose minimal 'red tape' for business?
- Has the body that will manage levy monies been consulted, and is that body accountable to levy payers and Government?
- Does the industry have a plan to review the levy against the Levy Principles?

This project will examine and report on each of these principles with respect to the proposed changes.

The project will involve a number of stages including:

- data and information collection and review;
- consultation with key industry and government representatives (July-August);
- analysis and options development and industry discussions, and
- preparation of a report assessing the proposal against the criteria required to be met for implementation of such a levy.

The project will report to RIRDC in October 2009.

Garland Outcomes has extensive experience working with rural industries and government. The project will be led by Bob Granger, a widely respected board chairman with extensive experience in executive management, research and development, agri-marketing, advocacy, project management and corporate governance. Vicki Woodburn (nee Manson) will complement Bob's experience by bringing expertise in policy analysis and evaluation from across the rural sector.

- Bob is currently the Chairman of several industry research advisory groups including apples and pears, mushrooms, cherries, and avocados, and was previously the Chairman of the Sugar Research and Development Corporation, Wholesale Ornamental Nurseries Pty Ltd and the Banana Industry Protection Board. Bob was appointed by the Australian Government to be an Associate Commissioner for the Productivity Commission's National Drought Review, involving extensive consultation across the Australian agricultural sector.
- Vicki is the Managing Director of Garland Outcomes. She prides herself on achieving timely customised outcomes for clients and has demonstrated this through her 15 years experience in the private and public sector. She has led several high profile reviews including the Landcare Sustainable Industries Review, Review of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct and the Evaluation of the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities Program. She has worked with over 20 agricultural industries to assess their current performance and prospects.

Bob Granger - Ph: 0413 310 867 or

Email: rgranger11@optusnet.com.au

Vicki Woodburn Ph: 0410 429 484 or

Email: vrw@grapevine.com.au

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE

We have been through a restructure and Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is now an organization of organizations. Our members are the seven (7) provincial associations and the co-op packer, BeeMaid honey. There are nine (9) voting members because Alberta has two votes. One voting director is allowed for every 150,000 colonies so if any other provinces reach more than 150,000 colonies they can apply for a second voting director.

Our funding comes from the provincial associations, based on a formula that has been agreed to by them all. It

is \$7,500 for the basic fee plus 0.12 cents per hive. The hive count is obtained from the official figures published by Statistics Canada for the previous year, so no-one can argue about the number.

We send an invoice to the associations and they have the flexibility of charging their members whatever amount in whatever way they choose, to raise the money. Each province is different. Some have commissions so only the commercial beekeepers pay. Others have a large number of hobbyists and they have kept the fee low for them but high for commercial members.

There is an annual budget shortfall of about \$50,000 which we make up with sponsorship and product sales. So far it has worked out well.

We have no levy on imported honey. It would be nice but our beekeepers are not ready to go with a mandatory levy inside Canada which would be required if we want to charge a levy on imported honey.

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer

MEDIA RELEASE

A GOOD START – MORE ACTION REQUIRED

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council is the peak body representing the Australian Apiary Industry in Australia representing: the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations, the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia, the Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association and the National Council of Crop Pollination Associations.

On 12 August 2009 the Federal Government released its response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources Inquiry Report "More than Honey – the future of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries". This report contained some 25 recommendations (*attached*) relating to the ongoing wellbeing and profitability of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries. Chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Mr Lindsay Bourke, called the Government's response to the Inquiry a good start but ongoing support and commitment by the Federal Government was essential to ensure the thrust of the report's recommendations were implemented.

Mr Bourke noted that of the 25 recommendations that had been put forward by the Primary Industries Standing Committee only 5 had been rejected outright (17, 18, 19, 20 & 21) whilst 6, 16 & 24 were noted but not supported by the Government. Mr Bourke also observed that 'noted' would seem to suggest that the Government at least recognised the importance of those recommendations. He also indicated that of the other Report's recommendations the Federal Government had agreed to further progress them with relevant government departments, States and other stakeholders. Mr Bourke said "that the proof of commitment was to ensure that the 17 recommendations that the Government had supported were progressed".

Mr Bourke said "I would like to put on record my thanks to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources who put together the initial report and the Government through the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and his department for their ongoing efforts to assist

stakeholders address issues facing the Honey Bee and Pollination dependent industries".

Mr Bourke indicated that of the 25 recommendations there were certainly a large number of contentious issues and he noted that one of the important outcomes of the report was to highlight the array of issues that confronted the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries. He indicated that he welcomed the Report and the Government's specific responses to:

1. Recognising the importance of the industry to greater Agricultural and Pastoral Industries of some \$4-6 billion a year.
2. Acting on the need to increase biosecurity resources and the Government's response included \$300,000 for the next 2 years for Sentinel Hive Program and also the maintenance of a quarantine facility at Eastern Creek or at another venue.
3. Pledging greater resources to pollination and recognising the nation's dependence on this important resource.

Industry looks forward to supporting the Government in the implementation of these recommendations.

Lindsay Bourke
Chairman

Phone: 0418 131 256

Email: queenvic@cradlemountainhoney.com.au

"More Than Honey: the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries"

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide the necessary leadership, funding and organisational resources to establish and run Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research and training in the provision of paid pollination services as part of its contribution to Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research into alternative pollinators as part of its contribution to Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government alter labelling requirements for agricultural chemicals to reflect their impact on honey bees and other pollinating insects.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish guidelines for beekeeper access to public lands and leasehold lands, including national parks, with a view to securing the floral resources of the Australian honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide incentives for the planting and conservation of melliferous flora under Commonwealth funded revegetation projects and carbon credit schemes.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research into the impact of fire management on the Australian honey bee industry with a view to establishing honey bee industry friendly fire management practices.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that the Australian Government maintain and enhance the National Sentinel Hive Program with a view to ensuring that:

- All major ports are covered by sentinel and bait hives;
- All beekeepers are brought under the program, with priority given to those operating in the vicinity of port facilities;
- Arrangements are made for an effective program of pre-border security; and
- Government provides funding adequate to achieving the above objectives.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry request that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority fast track the pre-registration of pesticides and other chemicals necessary to combat a Varroa incursion.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government improve the nation's incursion response capacity by providing for:

- Better education of those charged with border protection;
- Improved diagnostic capacity for pests and diseases;
- The establishment of national diagnostic protocols;
- The establishment of a national integrated pest and disease management protocol; and
- The establishment of a comprehensive biosecurity research program for the honey bee and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry establish a new honey bee quarantine facility as a matter of urgency, this facility to be commissioned prior to the closure of the current facility at Eastern Creek, and that:

- This facility is integrated into a national honey bee and pollination research centre;
- This facility have a containment laboratory for research on honeybee genomics and biotechnology;
- The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry enter into immediate negotiations with his New South Wales counterpart to establish the new honey bee quarantine facility at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Camden, or some other suitable location.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry direct Biosecurity Australia to complete the import risk analysis for drone semen by the end of 2008.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish and fund a national endemic bee pest and diseases control program.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish bee biosecurity regions based on natural boundaries, being:

- Eastern Australia, including New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and

South Australia;

- Tasmania;
- Western Australia;
- Northern Territory; and
- Kangaroo Island.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish a national system of registration for beekeepers, bee hives and apiary sites.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government commit \$50 million per annum in pursuit of biosecurity measures and research in support of the Australian honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government request the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to investigate pricing practices for honey within the honey bee industry and the retail sector.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government request the Productivity Commission investigate the long term viability of the Australian honey bee industry in respect of industry organisation, marketing structures and the financial viability of producers and packers.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship look at the skilled migration program with a view to further refining opportunities for the honey bee industry and the emerging pollination industry.

Recommendation 20

The committee recommends that the Australian Government develop product standards for honey and other bee products with regard to food standards and chemical contamination in line with those in force in the European Union, and that all imported honey products are tested against this standard.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop labelling standards to more accurately reflect the place of origin and composition of honey and honey bee products.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government pursue the development of a uniform international standard for the testing and labelling of honey bee products and the removal of all tariffs on honey bee products.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in consultation with industry, reduce inspection charges, if possible, for queen and packaged bees to make the export of this product more cost effective to producers.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a national centre for honey bee and pollination industry research, training and extension, funded as per Recommendation 16.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government alter research funding arrangements to allow for:

- Voluntary contributions to research funding to be matched by government funding; and
- A levy on pollination services to be allowed under law.

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SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

The Southern Tablelands Branch held a Small Scale Beekeepers Field Day at Collector on Saturday 10 October, 2009. Approximately 150 beekeepers were in attendance and some came from as far as Bairnsdale in Victoria and Tasmania. All showed interest in the speaking program and went away happy to have learnt something from the industry. The ST Branch gained four new members and Sydney Branch one, all joined on the day.

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