



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News December 2021

Enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about our work on behalf of your honey bee industry?
If you haven't already become a Friend of AHBIC, we welcome you coming on board to help us!

CONTRIBUTE HERE

Or use the form on the last page

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry that supports you

[Bee Keeper image finds sweet spot in National #AgDayAU Photo Competition - AustralianFarmers](#)



First place – The Bee Keeper

Photographer: Russell Ord, Margaret River Western Australia

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**Registrations
will open
soon**

**4th AUSTRALIAN
Bee Congress**

CELEBRATING HONEY BEES

At the heart of a healthy Australia
8 - 11 June 2022
Rosehill Gardens, Sydney, NSW

**SAVE
THE DATE**

www.australianbeecongress.com.au

AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is the peak industry body for the Australian beekeeping industry working for all within our industry including honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers

The following list recognises contributions received for the last 12 months. A number of generous contributors wish to remain anonymous. We encourage beekeepers to support those packers, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers who contribute to AHBIC. Thank you to all our contributors & supporters. AHBIC appreciates your generous & ongoing support.

Friends of AHBIC – Voluntary Contributions

PLATINUM PLUS (0)

PLATINUM (2)

Beechworth Honey Enterprises P/L
Hive & Wellness Australia P/L

GOLD PLUS (10)

Almond Board of Australia
Australian Honey Products P/L
Baker Beekeeping P/L
Beekeeping Australia P/L
Bega Cheese Limited
Goldfield Honey Australia P/L
Lauberts, Ugis
New South Wales Apiarists Association
Sterling Kershaw & Co
Woolworths

GOLD (12)

Australian Queen Bee Line P/L
Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Browns Bees Australia P/L
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Bricknell, Jack
Jensen, Bryce & Leanne
McDonald Honey
Mid Western Fresh Honey
Riverina Beekeeping Supplies P/L
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER (25)

Australian Manuka Honey Association Ltd
Australian Quality Honey (Blue Hills Honey)
Australian Women in Beekeeping Club Inc
Barnes Apiaries
Bees Neez Apiaries
Boyd Apiaries P/L
Clarks Bees & Honey P/L

Cooper, Casey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Ecrotek
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Honey Australia P/L
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
Manukalife Pty Ltd
McDonald, Eileen & Bob
Michie, Robert & Raelene
Nuplas P/L
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey
Warral Apiaries P/L
Wilson, Colin

BRONZE (14)

Archibald Honey P/L
Arkadieff, Murray
Australian Honeybee P/L
Cunial Beekeeping P/L
Fuller, Steve
G&A Apiaries
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Holscher, Luke
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Masters, Neil & Sharon
Targett, Stephen
The House of Honey

COPPER (25)

AB's Honey
Australian Honey.com
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Bee all Natural
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Carpenter, Ian
Clarke, Michael
Cooper, Barry
Costa, Daniel
De Jong, Wim
Godman, Phil
Griffin, Vic
Gustare Honey Australia P/L
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
JBR Bees
Jordan, Corinne
Mew, Peter
Moran, Jessica
Nobbs, Courtney
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Wheat, Nathan

OTHER (4)

Copier, Aaron
Drake, Liam
Kassebaum Christopher
Rasmussen, Ivan

NON-PUBLISHED Value (24)

Australian Virtual Hobby
Beekeepers Conference 2021
Barton, Keith
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies
Brenton, Daryl
Davis, Brenton
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithfull, Mark
Geelong Beekeepers
Gibson, David lee
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Gold Amateur Beekeeping Society
Honey Australia P/L
Hampton, Tom
Hivekeepers
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L
Moggill Honey
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Naicol P/L
Sorensen, Glen & Trevor
Southern Truck Centre
Tabulam Real Honey
The Tasmanian Honey Company
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

Anonymous (24)

Did you expect your name to be listed here?
Please check your emails for a message from AHBIC inviting you to renew your contribution (AHBIC emails often end up in spam) or feel free to email [Helen Goodall](mailto:Helen.Goodall@ahbic.org.au).

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM



1. Great news. The new Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) has been agreed to. The UK will eliminate its 16 per cent tariff on honey (0409.00.00) on entry into force of the Australia-UK FTA. Next steps following today's signature can be found at the following link:

[Next steps following signature | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/2020/12/15/australia-uk-free-trade-agreement)

AHBIC has been making representations to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for many years now to have the tariff on honey removed. Our representations have finally paid off.

2. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abj2151#.Yapv-yShZns>

Abstract

The origin of the western honey bee *Apis mellifera* has been intensely debated. Addressing this knowledge gap is essential for understanding the evolution and genetics of one of the world's most important pollinators. By analyzing 251 genomes from 18 native subspecies, we found support for an Asian origin of honey bees with at least three expansions leading to African and European lineages. The adaptive radiation of honey bees involved selection on a few genomic "hotspots." We found 145 genes with independent signatures of selection across all bee lineages, and these genes were highly associated with worker traits. Our results indicate that a core set of genes associated with worker and colony traits facilitated the adaptive radiation of honey bees across their vast distribution.

I was interested in this article because of the theory of evolution of the honey bee from Asia. The one thing that puzzles me is that if they came from Asia why are there no Varroa mites on European bees?

- 3.** The Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association (AQBBA) are putting together some data on problems with queen bee deliveries through Australia Post this season. Please contact the AQBBA President, Richard Sims, with any information you may have. Richard has been active on Facebook re gathering this information.
- 4.** Despite a submission from AHBIC to the contrary the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have issued a shelf registration for amitraz. APVMA said *"Given that the use of this product in Australia will only occur after the declaration of a varroa mite outbreak by the Chief Plant Protection Officer of the Commonwealth, the Maximum Residue Limit for amitraz in honey at 0.2 mg/kg will not be established until such time that use is permitted following a declaration of an outbreak."*

This statement does not take into account that under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement that honey from New Zealand can be sold in Australia with residues of amitraz provided it is within the New Zealand MRL for amitraz in honey.

- 5.** Finally I would like to wish all our beekeepers Australia wide the compliments of the season. This year has been a trying one for many but, as usual, beekeepers have been able to overcome adversity. As we always say "next year will be better".



NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

Thank you to our 'Friends of AHBIC' for your continued support and to the friends who contributed again this month. As 'Friends of AHBIC' you are playing a critical role in the protection and promotion of the honey bee and pollination industry that has an annual contribution of over \$14.2 billion to the Australian economy.

This is the last AHBIC newsletter for 2021. The year has provided challenges and some wins, and I would like to thank you for your support. While I know that this is a very busy time for beekeepers, I hope you find the time to celebrate Christmas and the New Year! I will be on leave commencing Monday 20 December 2021 and returning on

Monday 10 January 2022. If there is anything urgent that cannot wait until I return, please contact our Chair, Trevor Weatherhead at queenbee50@bigpond.com or on 0427 960 735.

Media Release

As needed, AHBIC has supported the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) in the legal battle against New Zealand. After four years of fighting, AMHA have won the case in the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) hearing against the New Zealand Manuka Honey Group who were trying to Trade Mark Manuka as coming from only New Zealand. This is very significant however the battle still continues. Please see page 8 of the newsletter for a copy of the AMHA media release.

BIOSECURITY UPDATE

- *Bees in Container at Ingleburn*

A container, when opened at a yard in Ingleburn on 24 November 2021, was found to have *Apis mellifera* in the container. The container was resealed and fumigated. Inspection following fumigation found that there was no comb present and most of the bees were killed and no mites were found on the bees.

The container had come on a ship which had its last port of call before Australia as Singapore on 4 November. It stopped at Brisbane on 13 November and then Sydney on 18 November. It was taken to Ingleburn and when the bees were discovered on opening and was put back under Biosecurity Control. The container was loaded with cellulose powder which is used as a food additive. There was also a hole found in the roof of the container.

The fact there was no comb makes it unlikely that the bees came aboard at Singapore or Brisbane. The hole in the roof makes it likely that the bees were either after the cellulose or it was a local swarm that had just arrived. If more details come to hand I will pass on to you.

Trevor Weatherhead
Chair

- *2021 National Biosecurity Forum*
Recordings of the 2021 National Biosecurity Forum are available at awe.gov.au/NBF.
- *Pollination Biosecurity*
Our Friend of AHBIC, Almond Board of Australia have worked with Agriculture Victoria and have published a 'Pollination Biosecurity' video outlining the requirements for sending hives to Victoria under the National Bee Biosecurity Program. Please see the link for the video:
<https://vimeo.com/594984588/ebba59116b>

HEAR FROM OUR MEMBER

Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA)

Good day,

The honey flow in WA continues to be strong, and most of the bees are located now in the South West forest on Jarrah. So all is looking good for a busy summer with strong and healthy bees.

WA's premier tourism region, Margaret River, was impacted by a devastating fire, which burnt for four days and destroyed about 8,000 hectares of unique forest. No lives or property were lost, and as far as beekeeping is concerned, there are no sites within this area. Our thoughts are with all the people impacted by the fires.

The BICWA member organisations vote on the amendment to the Constitution at a Special General Meeting on the 17th December 2021. The changes will allow membership for beekeepers, Alliance Partners and Friends. Until now, only organisations are allowed membership. The board worked hard to make this happen and is looking forward, offering everyone to become a member of our thriving and exciting industry!

The Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 is progressing, and BICWA is invited early January 2022 for a Stakeholder meeting to address industry views on the future of forest management.

BICWA wishes you a very happy & safe Festive Season and all the best for the coming year!

Don't forget to subscribe to our webpage and like us on Facebook.
Regards, Brendon Fewster, Chair



PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

- AgriFutures Australia provides access to a wide range of publications designed to help inform decisions made by Australian rural industries, and to contribute to policy debate on rural issues of national and international significance. Please click [here](#) for recent publications for the honey bee and pollination industry.
- Plan Bee is a national genetic improvement program using innovative breeding technologies to transform the performance of honey bees in Australia. Please take 5 minutes to complete the survey <http://agrifutures.com.au/partnerships/rural-rd-for-profit-program/plan-bee/>
- Farmers, researchers and businesses can now see levy funded research from all the Research and Development Corporations in one location. Please visit growAG.com
- [QUT - Sweet work: How better hive design can help keep bees warm](#)
- [Pesticide Antidote for 'Bees' | Bee Culture](#)

EXTENSIONAUS

- Ensure you make the most of these informative [extensionaus -professional beekeepers](#) resources.

EVENTS

- *Apimondia* - The 47th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress call for abstract submissions is now open. Please click on the following link [47th APIMONDIA | International Apicultural Congress \(apimondia2021.com\)](https://apimondia2021.com)
- EVOKEAG is being held the 15 March 2022, Sydney. Tickets available [here](#)
- The Sponsorship and Trade Exhibition Prospectus has been launched for the 4th Australian Bee Congress: Celebrating Honey Bees - At the heart of a healthy Australia. Please visit the Congress website at <https://australianbeecongress.com.au/>

SCHOLARSHIPS/PROGRAMS

- AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship applications. The Horizon Scholarship Program is open to students studying agriculture-related or STEM degrees with major studies and/or subject selections that align to agriculture. For more information and to apply visit www.agrifutures.com.au/horizon
- Australian Rural Leadership Program - The Drought Resilience Leaders Mentoring Program connects farmers and people in the agriculture industry from across Australia to share trusted advice and help tackle common challenges associated with drought, climate change, wellbeing and agricultural practice. Please visit [Drought Resilience Leaders Mentoring Program](#) for further information.

GOVERNMENT MARKET ACCESS ADVICE/INDUSTRY ADVICE NOTICE

- [2021-21: European Union \(EU\): Dairy, fish, honey, composite products and other edible non-prescribed goods: New export certification commencing from 7 December 2021 - DAWE](#)
- [2021-22: China: Dairy, Seafood, Honey and Other Edible Non-prescribed Goods: Update on new registration process for food processing and storage facilities handling product for export to China and product labelling requirements - DAWE](#)

AHBIC social media pages

If you have any of the below social media platforms please follow AHBIC and share with your friends.

Instagram: @australianhoneybees

LinkedIn: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

Facebook: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

Twitter: @AustBee



The Australian Manuka Honey Association is delighted that the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has rejected an application by New Zealand producers to trademark the words “Manuka honey”, recognising that it is a purely descriptive term for a type of honey, and has widespread use in jurisdictions beyond New Zealand.

In reaching its decision, the IPO accepted there was significant evidence that the general public understands manuka honey is not produced exclusively in New Zealand, but rather originates from a number of places including Australia.

Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) Chairman Paul Callander said: “This decision is the right decision and a fair decision. The term manuka has been used in Australia since the 1800s and the Australian industry has invested significantly for decades in manuka honey science, research and marketing. It would be deeply unfair – and financially devastating – to deny that reality.”

Mr Callander said the IPO decision would be welcomed by the entire Australian industry, which extends beyond manuka producers to the thousands of individuals and organisations engaged with manuka honey through research, logistics, manufacturing and sales.

“The market is forecast to be worth \$1.27 billion globally by 2027 and offers vast potential for local innovation and manufacturing,” Mr Callander said. “The Australian industry has fought hard to protect its rightful interests in this growing market, and will continue to do so. This decision is an important one that we hope will be followed by other jurisdictions where trademark certification has been sought.”

The same group of NZ producers has also sought to trademark the term in the United States, Europe, NZ and China. So far, no region has agreed to register the trademark. A decision from the NZ Intellectual Property Office is expected early next year.

Contact:
Paul Callander, Chairman
info@manukaaustralia.org.au

Additional Contact - Carolyn Ryan, Daymark – 0468 924 777 carolyn.ryan@daymark.com.au

Additional Information:

The international manuka honey market is worth around \$1.27 billion in annual trade, with Australia supplying a significant percentage of this. Manuka honey products can sell for between A\$300-500 per kilo, depending on levels of MGO+ activity. Sales are expected to continue to rise rapidly, with strong demand for the product for consumption as well as accelerating growth as an ingredient in medicinal and wellbeing products. The Australian manuka honey industry employs thousands of people in mainly rural areas and plays a crucial part in the overall

B-QUAL

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Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution

Please, help us help you and our industry!

Please complete this form and return by email to finance@honeybee.org.au or PO Box 42 Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

Friend Category	Investment	Friend Category	Investment
Platinum Plus	\$60,000 & above	Silver	\$1,000 - \$1,999
Platinum	\$20,000 - \$59,999	Bronze	\$500 - \$999
Gold Plus	\$5,000 - \$19,999	Copper	\$100 - \$499
Gold	\$2,000 - \$4,999	Other	\$0 - \$99

Contribution Details

Name:

Address:

.....State.....Postcode.....

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

Phone: Date:

Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

1. EFT Deposit (preferred payment method)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405

Reference: Please include your NAME as the reference

2. CHEQUE: Please post cheque with this form to PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

3. CREDIT CARD: Online at <https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

Please circle YES/NO to the following:

1. The AHBIC newsletter lists contributors

i. Publish your name YES / NO

ii. Publish the contribution amount YES / NO

2. I would like to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter YES / NO

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you