



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News September/October 2020

*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



Photo credit – Peter Barnes

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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 (7)

Australian Honey Products P/L
Baker Beekeeping P/L
Beekeeping Australia P/L
Bega Cheese Limited
Goldfield Honey Australia P/L
Sterling Kershaw & Co
Almond Board of Australia

GOLD (10)

Australian Queen Bee Line P/L
Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Browns Bees Australia P/L
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
NSW Apiarist Association
McDonald Honey
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER (22)

Australian Quality Honey (Blue Hills Honey)
Barnes Apiaries
Bees Neez Apiaries
Brenton, Daryl
Boyd Apiaries P/L
Cooper, Casey
Desert Breeze Honey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
McDonald, Bob & Eileen
Michie, Robert & Raelene
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey
South Australian Apiarists Association
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers Association
Warral Apiaries P/L
Wilson, Colin

BRONZE (11)

Australian Honeybee P/L
Clarke, RK & KM
Cunial Beekeeping P/L
G&A Apiaries
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Holscher, Luke
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Masters, Neil
Targett, Stephen

COPPER (23)

AB's Honey
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Berry, Jessica
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Clarke, Michael
Cooper, Barry
Frost, Liz
Gustare Honey Australia
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
JBR Bees
Jordan, Corinne
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L
MacGibbon, Kevin
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Petratos, Aris
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Wilson, Luke

OTHER (3)

De Broun, Pauline
Honeylife Australia
Shaw, Robert

NON-PUBLISHED Value (20)

Australian Women in Beekeeping
Australian Virtual Hobby
Beekeepers Conference 2020
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies
Beelventive (Flow)
Ecrotek
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithful, Mark
Gibson, David lee
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
Hampton, Tom
Hivekeepers
Leemon, Diana
Lewis, Peter
Matsen, Jeff
Moggill Honey
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Naicol Pty Ltd
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

ANONYMOUS (12)

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. I was recently part of a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) where they were reporting on the latest developments on the negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Currently there is a 17.3% tariff on honey going into the EU. In our submission to DFAT AHBIC has asked that this tariff be removed. Negotiations are still ongoing and I am hopeful that we will eventually have the tariff removed so we are not disadvantaged compared to some of the other countries that export honey to the EU.

There are some products that could be affected by geographical indicators (GI) but from what I have been told there are none that will affect us.

2. Over the years there has been talk of having a pollination levy put in place to allow for greater work in research and also the biosecurity field. Advice during that time was that it was most likely possible. Recently AHBIC asked the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to put this advice in writing so we could move forward.

Unfortunately, the answer came back that a pollination levy was not possible as it was service and services could not be levied under the Australian Constitution. This seems strange when there is currently a levy on stallions servicing mares. AHBIC was advised that there will be a review of the levy system soon and the question of the pollination levy will again be raised.

3. AHBIC has been asked to be part of a survey by Apimondia about next year's meeting in Russia. I contacted several people who were at Apimondia in Canada last year for their opinion as I reasoned that they would be most likely to attend if possible. The reply I will give is that we are in favour of postponing till 2022 and hopefully the international travel and the Covid-19 problem will have been resolved by then.

4. Talking with beekeepers around Australia it seems that conditions vary greatly. In Queensland conditions are very dry and no one really knows where they will go after pollination of macadamias and avocados finishes. In Tasmania they are very happy with the way things are progressing but as they say until the honey is in the drum we will wait with anticipation. Victoria shows some promise along with South Australia and the west but in New South Wales it is a tale of two parts. The south shows some promise whilst the northern part is still dry in parts.





NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

To celebrate International Day of Rural Women, AgriFutures are shining a light on some of the incredible women from regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. One of these women is our own AHBIC Executive member, Therese Kershaw. Therese volunteers an incredible amount of her time for the benefit of the industry. Please read more about Therese [here](#) . Congratulations Therese, great recognition and well deserved.

AHBIC with support is continuing to advocate on a national level for financial assistance to deliver on the bushfire recovery plan to rebuild the industry. Please see the links below to interviews and news articles:

- Rural editor Eddie Summerfield interviews AHBIC Chair Trevor Weatherhead - [2gb](#)
- Weekend live interview NSW Beekeeper Wayne Fuller - [skynews](#)
- The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council has developed a six-point plan to rebuild and secure the future of commercial beekeeping and pollination services - John Harvey AgriFutures - [naracoorteherald](#)

You would have received advice that the call for new members of the AgriFutures Honey Bee and Pollination Program Advisory Panel is [now open](#) and closes on 28 October 2020. Further to this AgriFutures have appointed the next Board, please see the [media release](#) from Minister Littleproud. Congratulations Danny Le Feuvre on your new appointment to the AgriFutures Board.

Biosecurity is one of the many priorities for AHBIC and we continue to work at a national level to protect the industry. Please see the [communiqué](#) providing an update from the National Bee Biosecurity Program steering committee.

As you would be aware AHBIC is campaigning to stop the use of imported beeswax. Australian beeswax is pure and needs to stay that way. The full article can be found [here](#). We have asked that you send samples of imported beeswax to AHBIC for testing. Please send your samples as per the below:

*Trevor Weatherhead
Chair, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.
1416 Middle Road
Peak Crossing Qld 4306*

- o *The sample size is about 100g. If foundation two sheets will be needed.*
- o *Contact details of person submitting*
- o *Where purchased, when*
- o *How it was advertised, was it sold as pure beeswax or as Australian beeswax.*



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. Including:
 - The extraordinary honey bee and its impact on the food we [eat](#)
- Authenticating honey from the apiary site to shelf – Masterclass 14 October 2020 www.uwa.edu.au
- Honey bee best management practice for Australian almond [pollination](#)
- A new version of the ‘Health Certificate for importation of European Honey Bee Queens and Beeswax’ into [Tasmania](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

- Over 12 weeks, *The Weekly Times* will highlight women on farms and off them, in rural towns, sporting clubs, businesses and schools whose achievements deserve to be recognised. Nominate now for the [Shine awards](#)
- AgriFutures Australia, in partnership with Farmers2Founders, announce that applications for the 2020 Bootcamp Accelerator are now open and close on 21 October 2020 farmers2founders.com

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- Infectious bee disease [american-foulbrood](#) found in Alice Springs hives
- Forest Industry Federation of WA (FIFWA) and the Bee Industry Council of WA (BICWA) presented a joint policy statement to the State Government entitled Bees and Trees together in [business](#)
- South African weevil set to be imported to ease [fireweed](#) threat
- [Where-would-we-be-without-bees](#) Can you imagine life in Australia without macadamias, avocados or blueberries? Our bees are about so much more than just honey. Once we acknowledge the vital role they play in our food security there are some critical, yet simple, things we can do to help secure the future of our honey bee industry
- Release of the Trade Information Service. Save time and hassle in finding importing country requirements and tariff rates for honey. A new digital service, which saves exporters time and effort searching for regulations across multiple sites, was launched on 30 June. It’s called the Trade Information Service (TIS) and it enables exporters to quickly access tariff rates, import country requirements and commercial insights for honey in eight markets.

TIS has been built by Austrade, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. We encourage you to test it out by visiting [here](#) selecting a product (honey) and market of interest, and clicking on the ‘Laws and Regulations’ tile. We hope you find it valuable and welcome suggestions for improvement (there’s a feedback function in the site).

RESEARCH

- Almond industry set to be more sustainable as new solutions sought to reduce environmental [footprint](#)
- The [value](#) of honey bees in self-pollinating almonds
- Pheromones used to attract bees in new almond nut pollination trial in Victoria's north-west [almond-pollination-bee-pheromone-trial](#)

EXTENSIONAUS

Ensure you make the most of these informative extensionaus.com.au/professionalbeekeepers resources.

- Tips for [avocado](#) pollination with honey bees.

APIMONDIA UPDATE

Jodie Goldsworthy Oceania President

World Bee Day had to be converted to a small virtual event in May as a result of travel restrictions and lock downs. Despite this the day still received due focus and attention within FAO and the United Nations which is testimony to the good work of the Secretariat in Rome.

With this long relationship with FAO Apimondia is in its final stages of signing a MOU with FAO to allow the two organisations to work more closely together on initiatives and programs that raise the profile of beekeeping globally. The work on the relationship building and development of this MOU with FAO has been a work in progress and a focus for Apimondia over the last 3-4 years.

Apimondia initiated with FAO the develop a joint publication on how beekeeping contributes to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) of the United Nations**. To this end the Executive Committee of Apimondia have for the last 6 months worked to put together a publication 'Beekeeping contributes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. This is the first of its kind to formally recognise at this level the link between beekeeping and sustainable development and will build on the importance of beekeeping as a keystone industry in terms of food security. The recognition of beekeeping as being able to contribute to all of the 17 SDG's is unique and the publication lists examples from all the Scientific and Regional Commissions on how this currently takes place. It should help to guide FAO and global policy makers on the strategic importance of sympathetic apiculture policies and programs into the future. Please see the link to the publication [here](#)

Looking towards more regular communications - One of the reasons for my Apimondia Executive Committee colleagues asking me to consider being renominated for the role of Oceania President was for my focus on helping Apimondia to build on its strengths, and to help explore better communicate with its members using a strategic approach. Through the new Presidency of Dr Jeff Pettis Apimondia is now entering into the new era of more regular communications and this is beginning at the Executive Committee level. Up until this year the Apimondia Executive met only once per year in non congress years. In Congress years the Executive met twice per year, once in May and once at the Congress. These meetings were face to face and much of the focus was on the congress organisation. Other communications through the year were via email. In my first four year term it took some time to learn the internal workings of Apimondia and follow what was happening. What was clear was that the correspondence to the Rome office from around the globe was massive and the potential to build on Apimondia also huge.

Covid 19 meant that the scheduled annual May meeting which was to be held in Rome took place over a weekend of extended Zoom sessions instead. For our part of the world with global time zones needing to accommodate every continent this meant some very late nights / very early mornings. I am so pleased that this technology has offered the opportunity of more regular meetings and the ability to begin working on a more coordinated Apimondia work plan which is currently under development.

Apimondia is planning to use technology to connect with members and beekeepers from around the world in some planned Apimondia Zoom sessions to be available globally. Watch this space and if you have any ideas or would like to hear more about a particular topic then please let me know and I can feed this back to the Apimondia Executive.

Efa - Russia Congress 2021 - The work is continuing in organising the Ufa Congress in Russia for 2021 albeit under the cloud of Covid. With the realities of Covid and a vaccine still uncertain the Executive Committee and the Ufa Organising committee are keen to hear the views of the member organisations in relation to next year's congress. Decisions will need to be made later this year on whether to hold the congress as planned or whether it should be postponed or made a virtual event. All member organisations will shortly receive a survey from the Rome Secretariat which asks for their thoughts on this matter. This will help inform the Executive and Ufa organising committee on member views before taking any next steps in these very uncertain times.

Bee Health Commission - The Apimondia Bee Health Commission received a new President in Montreal with Dr Jeff Pettis moving to President Apimondia. Dr Fani Hatjina from Greece is the new Bee Health Commission President. Fani called for nominations to a Bee Health Working Group from each of the Regional Presidents. Congratulations to Dr John Roberts from CSIRO who is the appointed Oceania member of the Apimondia Bee Health Commission. John's work on Bee Viruses was referenced and discussed during some of the sessions in Montreal and I am confident that John will make excellent contributions to this network. I am hopeful that other Scientific Presidents will take a similar approach to connecting global scientists to their commission which will allow greater connection opportunities for Scientists from every region globally.

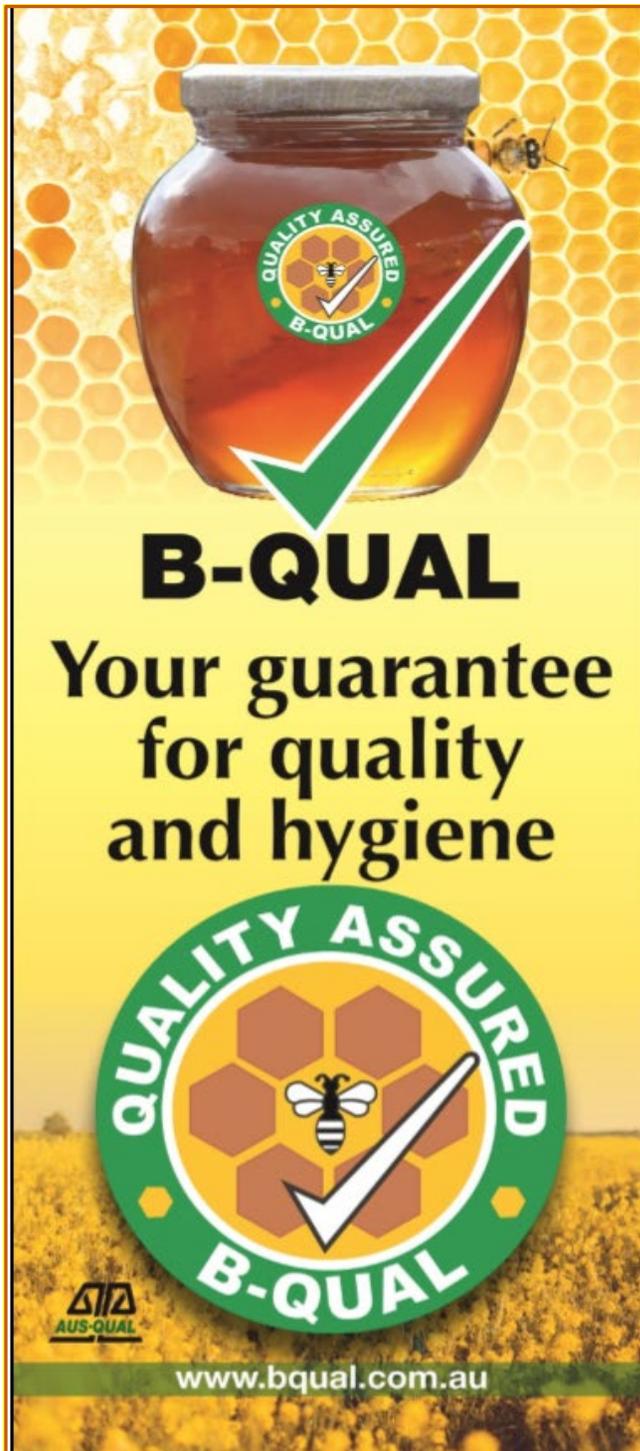
Thank you ApiNZ I would like to formally thank the Board of ApiNZ who renominated me to stand for a second term as Oceania President for Apimondia following notifications to all members by Apimondia. Maureen Maxwell from New Zealand continues on as Vice President of Oceania Region and is always a terrific support as we approach these roles as a team.

Hello Fiji & aim to find other Oceania beekeepers to connect to Apimondia - I have also been pleased to connect with John Caldiera from the Fiji Beekeepers Association and to meet John in person in Montreal. It was great to be able to introduce John to the Apimondia network and to have John helping me with information from Fiji to pass back to Apimondia.

I am looking forward to working to try to better connect with other beekeepers from the Oceania region and would welcome anyone reaching out to me with contacts that they may have for beekeepers in other Oceania countries. With the FAO connection I feel that there may be opportunities to help support and better connect some emerging beekeeping countries from our region but during this time it would be helpful if anyone has any contacts to please pass them on so that I can reach out to them.

Now more than ever we need global solutions to local problems for bees and beekeepers and to this end the Apimondia network is well placed. If at any time I can help put any beekeepers in contact with beekeepers or Scientists from the Apimondia networks in other parts of the world please make contact with me jodie@beechworthhoney.com.au

Stay safe and well everyone and here's to making it safely through the coming season. Jodie



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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.