



Honeybee R&D News



Chairman's Foreword

Des Cannon, Chairman, HBRDC (RIRDC)

With my Term of Appointment as Chair of the RIRDC Honeybee R&D Advisory Committee expiring on 30 June 2011, I have advised RIRDC that I will not be seeking re-appointment as Chair. By the end of June I will have been on the Committee for 11 years, the last 5 of which will have been as Chair, and I feel it is time to step aside. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Committee, and hope that I have been able to achieve worthwhile results for the beekeeping industry in Australia.

By the time you receive this R&D News, the call for nominations for a new Chair will have expired, and the selection process will have commenced.

At the end of November, Dr Denis Anderson announced that he would be stepping down from the Committee, and coupled with the selection process for a new Chair, a selection process for a new Committee member is also underway. Denis has, over the past four and a half years, made an invaluable contribution to the Committee. His scientific knowledge and approach has been considerable and freely given, and his open approach to new ideas refreshing. I would personally like to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the Committee and industry, thank him for his friendship over the last 5 years, and wish him well as he moves towards retirement.

This issue contains a number of smaller items in relation to the Honeybee R&D Advisory Committee role within the Australian honeybee industry.

For further information about the RIRDC Honeybee Research and Development Program, feel free to browse the RIRDC website (www.rirdc.gov.au) or contact the new Program Co-ordinator, Helen Moffett, on 02 6271 4145, or email Helen.Moffett@rirdc.gov.au

Current R&D Committee

Des Cannon (Chair)	(02) 6236 3294
Prof. Ben Oldroyd	(W) (02) 9351 7501
Bruce White	(02) 9634 6792
Senior Research Manager	
Dave Alden	(02) 6271 4128
Program Coordinator	
Helen Moffett	(02) 6271 4145

Sponsorship for State Conference

The R&D Committee at its meeting in October decided to allocate \$1000 to each State as sponsorship to assist the State Apirists' Associations in their organising of guest speakers for their respective Conferences.

In the past, the Committee has only funded the travel costs for a RIRDC funded bee researcher to attend a State conference, up to a maximum of \$1000/year. It was also required that the State Associations apply to the Committee for this funding, on a competitive basis.

In future the same level of funding (\$1000) will be available to each State. The Committee took this action as part of its role on increasing communication to beekeepers of research outcomes, regardless of the research done or the origin of the speaker.

Small Hive Beetle Update

With the ongoing problems being caused by Small hive beetle, the R&D Committee is working with Christine Joannides, from the RIRDC Publications staff, to update the flier on Managing Small Hive Beetle. At the same time, the project to commercialise the Harbourage device developed by NSW I&I is progressing. The new trap will be called Apithor, and featured in an article in Agriculture Today. This can be seen at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/agriculture-today/december-2010

There have been some problems in supply of the materials, and manufacture to the high quality expected. This has caused the commercial availability of Apithor to be delayed. For more information on the Apithor trap, go to www.apithor.com.au

Nominations for Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Course 2011

For a number of years, the R&D Committee has funded an Australian beekeeper to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Course. The NSW Apiarists' Association also fund a NSW beekeeper to attend the course, and while the R&D Committee normally funds someone from another State, there is no restriction, and the Committee could fund a second NSW beekeeper.

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program is an intensive five-day workshop conducted on the college campus at Geelong, commencing on the last Sunday in June each year, with an average of approximately 30 participants per course. The industries represented include livestock grazing for meat and wool, broad acre summer and winter cropping, dairy production, poppy production, cotton production, horticulture, apiarists and agribusiness support agencies.

There are no maximum age or experience criteria, but it is preferable for participants to be a minimum of 21 years of age. Women are strongly encouraged to nominate. Participants are selected on their potential to contribute as a leader in their community and industry, and a demonstrated desire to develop their leadership skills, self-confidence and personal effectiveness.

The Honeybee R&D Committee fund the successful applicant for all Course fees, including tuition, notes, accommodation and all meals for the five-day program. The applicant is expected to meet their own travel costs to and from the Course. A fully refundable fee is required upon nomination. The registration fee is advised on the course Application Form.

Objectives

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

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

Anyone considering applying for RIRDC funding should:

1. Download the application form from the Marcus Oldham website (available at <http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au>)
2. Forward their application form, together with the nomination fee, to Helen Moffett, RIRDC, PO Box 4776, Kingston ACT 2604, by 1st April, 2011
3. Indicate to Helen whether they will still attend the Course even if not granted funding from the Committee.
4. The Committee will make a decision on who will be funded at its meeting in April and will advise all applicants of the decision.
5. Helen Moffett will forward the successful applicant's application to Marcus Oldham, together with any from applicants who have expressed a desire to do the course even if not funded.
6. Any other applications, with nomination fees, will be returned.

In 2010, the Committee did fund two applicants, although this is not to be seen as a precedent. Excerpts from the Reports by Daniel Jones and Graham Brooks:

'As a participant in the Rural Leadership Program I thoroughly enjoyed the public speaking session the most. Not being a public speaker myself, I found it excellent to get the opportunity to speak in front of a group of people. It has been the most rewarding session to me as it has given me more confidence and has a great relevance to me as a member of the Queensland Beekeepers Association management committee.....'

'My congratulations to all the staff at the Marcus Oldham College for a very well presented course and one that I would highly recommend to anyone. Thank you for your support in sponsoring me to do this program. A special thanks also to the catering staff for preparing fantastic meals.'

(Daniel Jones, Qld)

'So I guess the key session was "understanding the place of vision" (A hot topic at this year's SAAA); it helped me understand why we set goals and visions for our own purposes as well as industry and why we need to have the steps in place to reach those goals..... after coming away from the week I have some renewed hope, and have learned that sometimes you have to take that back seat and just listen to what others have to say, putting my own ideas aside With a big thanks to RIRDC for giving me the opportunity to do this course and many thanks to everyone involved at Marcus Oldham for opening my eyes to a lot of new views and ideas.'

(Graham Brooks, SA)

Update of Honey and Pollen Flora Publications

Interest was expressed last year in having out-of-print books updated and reprinted, in particular 'Honey and Pollen Flora' (of NSW) (Alan Clemson) 'Beekeeping' and the 'Victorian Honey and Pollen Flora'. The Honeybee R&D Committee are progressing this, with some Copyright issues being negotiated. The Committee would like to hear from the Australian

beekeeping community of any other worthwhile out-of-print publications that should be considered as part of its efforts to ensure that more beekeepers have access to these valuable resources. The Committee will attempt to have reprinted the most popular out-of-print books.

Honeybee Statutory Levy

With the increase in producer packing of honey, many beekeepers who have moved into packing their own product may be unaware of the Statutory Levy that is payable on all honey sales over 600kg. In the past, these levies were paid on their behalf by the commercial packers, and beekeepers who have elected to pack their own product, instead of supplying a commercial packers, may be unaware of the need to pay the levy. This levy is compulsory and should not be confused with the voluntary levy to support AHBIC. Levy is payable on:

- I. honey produced in Australia; and
- II. honey produced in Australia and used in the production of other goods.

Export charge is payable on honey produced in and exported from Australia.

No export charge is payable if domestic levy has already been paid on the honey to be exported.

The amount of 2.3¢/kg of honey sold is used in three ways:

- 1.5¢/kg is paid to fund R&D (ie the workings of the R&D Committee.). Monies allocated to research and development by the Committee are matched dollar for dollar by the Commonwealth Government.
- 0.3¢/kg is used to fund the Residue surveys demanded by overseas importers as part of the process of

ensuring that honey exported from Australia is free from contamination by residues or pesticides

- 0.5¢/kg is allocated to the Contingency Fund, held in trust by Animal Health Australia, and used in the event of incursions of exotic pests which might harm our industry. As an example, \$100,000 was recently used from this Fund in the Industry's contribution to the surveillance efforts to eradicate the Asian bee (*Apis cerana*) from Cairns.

Producers who sell honey directly to the public via retail sale (including roadside stalls, shed sales, farmgate etc) are required to submit returns and payment directly to LRS on an Annual basis. Producers who use honey in the production of other goods are required to submit returns and payment directly to LRS.

People who lodge returns to LRS and people who pay levy/charge to intermediaries are required to keep records supporting the information supplied in returns or information relating to payments made to intermediaries. These records are to be kept for a period of five (5) years and are to be made available to LRS officers.

For further information or clarification on what records must be kept, who should keep them and for how long please contact your nearest LRS office.

Australian Government levies administered by the LRS are exclusive of the GST (Goods and Services Tax). The levy/charge is a separate calculation, exclusive of GST consideration.

Send your completed returns and payments to:

The Secretary
Levies Revenue Service
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries & Forestry
Locked Bag 4488
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Where payment of levy is made by EFT, please fax your return to 1800 609 150. If you would like to make a payment by EFT, please call (free call) 1800 020 619 for more information. (Please note that calls to this number may incur charges if made from mobile or pay phones.)

The levy may be paid on a quarterly or on an annual basis. Penalties are charged for late returns. For further information:

The Director
Levies Revenue Service
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries & Forestry
Locked Bag 4488
Kingston ACT 2604

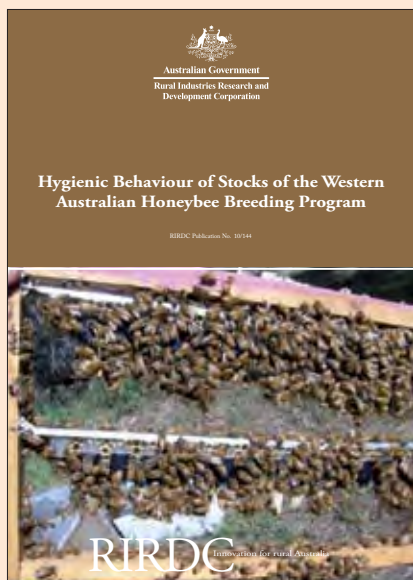
Ph: 1800 020 619

Email: Levies.Management@daff.gov.au

Web: www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/levies/horticulture

New RIRDC Honeybee-related Publications

All RIRDC publications can be purchased in hard copy, online from www.rirdc.gov.au, or may be downloaded for free from the same site.



Hygienic Behaviour of Stocks of the Western Australian Honeybee Breeding Program

Publication: 10-144 47 pages, \$25.00

Published: 16 Nov 2010

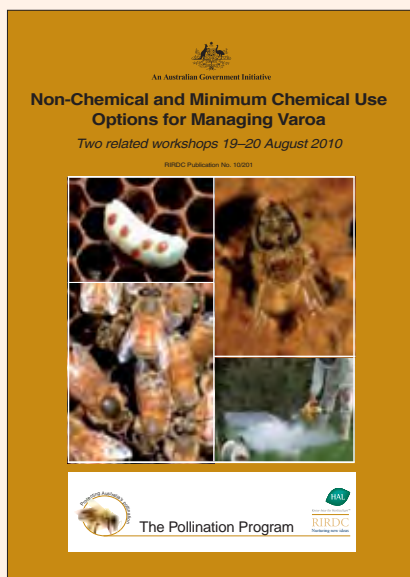
Author(s): Dr Rob Manning

ISBN: 978-1-74254-113-6

A study of the hygienic behaviour of bees from the Western Australian Queen Bee Breeding Program (Better Bees group) showed that some breeding lines exhibited higher levels of hygienic behaviour in the removal of dead brood than other lines.

Hygienic behaviour is a mechanism of disease resistance where bees are able to remove brood from the nest before the pathogen becomes infectious. Honeybees having the hygienic trait show resistance to diseases such as American foulbrood, chalkbrood and to some limited extent the parasite varroa.

Further knowledge of hygienic behaviour should assist queen bee breeders to exploit those identified lines to produce by instrumental insemination a “hygienic” line for beekeepers Australia-wide so apiaries of bees will be more resistant to bee diseases.



Non-Chemical and Minimum Chemical Use Options for Managing Varroa

Code: 10-201137 pages, \$35.00

Published: 5 Nov 2010

Author(s): Michael Williams

ISBN: 978-1-74254-167-9

Two related workshops 19–20 August 2010

Varroa destructor (Varroa) is a serious pest of honeybees. Untreated Varroa will cause the death of affected honeybee colonies and a loss of production from plant industries dependent on honeybee pollination. Almost alone on the world stage Australia remains free of Varroa mite infestation. It is expected that Varroa will likely infest Australian honeybee hives sometime in the future.

Therefore a window of opportunity exists for the honeybee and pollination dependent industries to learn from overseas experience and research best practice non-chemical and minimum chemical use options for management of Varroa under Australian conditions.

This report summarises outcomes from two related workshops convened by RIRDC and its pollination research partner Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL). The purpose of the workshops was to review control options, identify research projects and to raise Varroa management awareness. While chemical use may be a necessary short term response to Varroa infestation, viable longer term non-chemical R&D requirements are scoped in this report. Non-Chemical R&D needs include measures to address industry profitability, prevention strategies and pre-incursion option evaluation. Communication messages developed during the workshops focus on the need to educate both beekeepers and pollination dependent plant industries.