

SAVEYOURLEATHERWOODHONEY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2009

This year has been very active on the resource protection front but quiet as regards publicity.

You may remember that as at the 30th June 2008 we were in the process of negotiating with Forestry Tasmania for early access to both 3 year harvesting plans for Forest Districts and Forest Practises Plans for those coupes due for harvesting in the current year.

Whilst that process has continued we have also become increasingly involved in the negotiations between Forestry Tasmania and the Southern Beekeepers to put in place an agreement to create Special Apiary Management Zones in the Wedge Block of the Derwent District. The Block comprises an area of 10500 Ha. This work has been both challenging and time consuming. Our involvement in these confidential negotiations concerning the Wedge Block has limited our ability to release publicly the progress and results to date of that matter.

Some more details of these negotiations and their progress may be found in the summary of a report by the Association to the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association. The report also contains a historical summary of the resource problem and the background to the formation of this Association. The report may be viewed on our website.

The Agreement negotiations have progressed to a point where its form is finalised but there remain two outstanding matters which are central to its intended effect and which must be settled before it can be signed. These outstanding matters relate to the enforcement of and life of the Agreement. In the meantime the parties are in good faith implementing the agreement as if it was in place. For the time being this means that the leatherwood resource in the Wedge is being preserved together with a harvesting regime which encourages leatherwood regrowth. These negotiations are taking place with the support and encouragement of the responsible Government Minister The Hon. David Llewellyn MHA.

While the precise terms of the Agreement are confidential during the negotiation period, we will report further and in detail when these are complete.

We are also now expanding our involvement in the arranging and monitoring of the assessment of leatherwood in the other parts of the Derwent District containing the resource, namely the Tyenna, Styx, Florentine and Tiger Blocks, and also the recommencement of a similar operation in the Huon District. This will involve all the forest coupes in these areas where timber harvesting is scheduled for the next 12 months.

THE FUTURE

- FINALISE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE WEDGE
- DEVELOP A CASE FOR THE NEW WEDGE HARVESTING PRACTISES TO BE ADOPTED STATE WIDE – SOMETHING ALREADY DISCUSSED POSITIVELY ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS WITH FORESTRY TASMANIA
- WIDEN OUR MEMBERSHIP BASE TO ENSURE THE ASSOCIATION CAN REPRESENT THE ENTIRE STATE AND BE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT ITS OBJECTIVES AS REQUIRED IN ALL AREAS OF STATE FOREST CONTAINING COMMERCIAL STANDS OF LEATHERWOOD
- SEEK FUNDING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR RESEARCH INTO THE VALUE OF ACCESSABLE LEATHERWOOD TO BOTH THE BEEKEEPING AND POLLINATION INDUSTRIES – PRELIMINARY CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE CORPORATION WHICH HAS INVITED THE ASSOCIATION TO APPLY FOR SUITABLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE RELATING TO RESOURCE ACCESS SECURITY, (THIS WOULD BE

MOST LIKELY DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION).

- CONTINUE THE EXISTING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ON ALL MATTERS TOUCHING RESOURCE SECURITY
- CONTINUE TO PUBLICISE ON A WORLD WIDE BASIS, (WITH TASMANIA AS THE MAIN FOCUS), THE LEATHERWOOD RESOURCE ISSUE AND THE TIMBER HARVESTING EFFECT ON THAT
- CONTINUE TO ACT AS A LOBBY GROUP FOR TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS AND AS A BROKER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FORESTRY TASMANIA.

As regards the application for research funding, if we can produce a research model for the whole of the State and not just the South, then we have a basis for negotiating leatherwood protection agreements across Tasmania.

All the above work continues to be carried out by a few of our members. To maximise our effect we continue to be in urgent need of more volunteer assistance as requested in my report last year.

Our committee has changed with the replacement of Roland Heese and Simon Pigot with Paul Kempnich and Tim Bounday. We are very grateful for the work and support that both Roland and Simon have given the Association, and welcome Paul and Tim on board.

Thank you to all of our members for continued support and we look forward to that continuing during the coming year. The beekeeping industry is relying on it. A particular thank you is due to our hardworking committee, without whom very little would have been achieved.

Finally I urge all our members to attend the Annual General Meeting, the notice for which has been sent out to all members. We require a quorum of at least 10 members to attend the meeting.

Our treasurer Ian Wheeler retired during the year and his interim replacement Chris Duggan, is not available to stand for re-election. We thank Ian for his loyal support over the past few years and look forward to another member offering to fill the position. Also a thank you to Chris for filling in for the last few months. Ian is continuing to assist with the preparation of the annual accounts but is not available to carry out the duties relating to the receipt and banking of money, the sending out of receipts and the payment of accounts. There are only a few such items each year but to process these we require the services of a treasurer.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual General Meeting, and to your continued support.

Bob Davey (President).