

SAVE YOUR LEATHERWOOD HONEY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010.

This year has been particularly successful with the brokering of a Community Forest Agreement (Wedge Agreement), between the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association and Forestry Tasmania, covering the Wedge Block in the Derwent District of the Southern State Forest.

While we have continued our activities in several areas, the brokering of this Agreement and subsequent monitoring of the 10500ha it covers has been our main activity during the year.

In addition, in mid June we were asked to assist in the preparation of a submission by the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association to the National Heritage Council dealing with the proposed listing of the Tarkine region on the National Heritage Register. One third of all registered beehives in Tasmania rely on the Tarkine for the leatherwood resource every year. This work occupied your President almost full time for the last 3 weeks of June and into July.

It is clear from our work on the submission that the threat to the leatherwood and pollination industries and the importance to resource retention is not limited to the South of Tasmania as has previously been claimed by some beekeepers.

The monitoring of the harvesting activity under the Wedge Agreement involves the inspection of 3 year plans and Forest harvesting Plans, negotiating coupe boundaries in the relevant forest coupes to assess the success (or otherwise) of leatherwood retention and, whether there are any areas not previously known to contain mature leatherwood stands. Where these are found and are verified they are added to the Leatherwood Map which underpins the Wedge Agreement and provides for timber harvesting to be either forbidden or limited.

We expect to inspect the new 3 year plans for the Styx, Florentine and Tyenna blocks also in the Derwent District in the near future. Most of our work in the short to medium term future will be the inspection of the 3 year plan for the Huon District, an area in excess of 400000ha South of Hobart, and the inspection of coupes scheduled for harvesting. As each plan and coupe is inspected, submissions will be made to Forestry Tasmania to draw the final coupe boundaries to maximise the retention of any mature and commercial leatherwood stands. This process will continue while we are planning and negotiating a Community Forest Agreement for each of the Blocks in the Huon District. The negotiations with this objective have just commenced, and it is anticipated will take some Months if not years to complete.

We have continued to receive some exposure in the public domain through radio and television media. ABC TV is currently showing interest in preparing a documentary/news item dealing with the successful completion of the Wedge Agreement and the necessity of continuing this

process in the Huon District and eventually in all State Forest areas in Tasmania where there exist mature stands of Leatherwood.

Further details of our activities during the last 12 months, can be found on our website.

THE FUTURE

- Continue and develop our negotiations and research towards preparing a community forest agreement for the Huon District.
- 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 mature Leatherwood.
- Seek funding and other assistance from the rural industries research and development corporation for research into the value of accessible Leatherwood to both the beekeeping and pollination industries.
- Continue the existing close relationship with the Tasmanian beekeepers association on all matters touching resource security.
- Continue to publicise on a worldwide 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.

Thank you for your support during the past year and we look forward to that support into the future.

We have moved from just publicity, to the actual securing of leatherwood resource into the future for beekeepers and the pollination industries which rely on them.

We must not lose the impetus which has resulted in the progress to date.

Bob Davey (President)