



What's

The Buzz

Edition 1, Q3 2011

Welcome

to "What's the Buzz?"

Welcome to the first edition of a new source of news and information about the fascinating world of honey! Honey's something most people are very familiar with (and of course enjoy), but what do we really know about honey? The aim of this newsletter is to shine some light in little known corners of the world of honey that will help explain how incredibly versatile it really is, beyond being something sweet and tasty to spread on toast in the morning! Feel free to give us feedback and ask us questions by emailing us at sales@berringahoney.com

Australian Super Manuka claims World First in MRSA control

Honey sourced from an Australian native myrtle tree has been found to have the most powerful antibacterial properties of any honey in the world and could be used to treat antibiotic - resistant bacterial infections that commonly occur in hospitals and nursing homes.

A Brisbane based research group found that the honey from the Australian Organic Honey Company and Medi Bioactive Honey Australia had very high levels of "Methylglyoxal" (MGO) and outperforms all medicinal honeys currently on the market.

Led by the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) - a partnership between The University of Queensland and the Queensland Governments Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DDEDI), the research involved comprehensive trials of a range of honeys with different MGO levels.

Chief Researcher, QAAFI scientist Dr Yasmina Sultanbawa, said the potency of the honey meant that only a small amount was required to fight infection.

"The sheer strength, due to high levels of active compounds in these honeys, has meant that we have been able to completely inhibit MRSA for example, in in-vitro studies with a relatively small quantity of the honey, Dr Sultanbawa said.

Ms Carolyn Macgill, CEO of The Australian Organic Honey Company and Medi Bioactive Honey Company Australia commented "The potential of these honeys could ultimately lead to a range of highly sought after products with worldwide demand in health care".

For more information about this amazing world leading research breakthrough, go to sales@berringahoney.com

Berringa Booster

What's

The Buzz

?

Introducing Berringa Booster to the Berringa, Super Manuka range.

After receiving numerous requests for an active manuka that could be consumed daily in a variety of ways (cereal, toast, tea, porridge), and fit into a family budget, we decided to create Berringa Booster to meet their needs. Berringa Booster is a pure unadulterated active manuka honey, produced and packaged in Australia. Berringa Booster has similar health benefits as our other super manuka honey.

But the best thing our customers tell us that it tastes great, much better than other comparative products. You can purchase Berringa Booster at health food stores.

If your health food store doesn't stock Berringa Booster, ask them to or email us at sales@berringahoney.com

NEW



Botulism Spores in Manuka Honey?

Intestinal botulism is a rare but potentially fatal condition that causes progressive weakness.

It is caused by toxins made by the *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium. The bacterium can be found in soil, sediments, raw foods (including seafoods) and honey. (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

There are 3 types of botulism: intestinal botulism; food borne botulism; and wound botulism.

Intestinal botulism is the most common form of botulism, and affects children under the age of 12 months. Another risk group are adults with particular gastrointestinal problems.

Food borne botulism is caused by eating toxins formed by the bacteria in the food.

Wound botulism is a rare form of botulism that is caused by contaminated soil or gravel invading a wound.

Around 8 weeks ago we were presented with feedback from European colleagues that manuka honey was allegedly a factor in wound botulism in patients that had used manuka honey on their wounds. This led the Medi Bioactive Honey Company Australia to research if this was true, and to assess what risk was posed by using Berringa Honey on wounds, whether they were ulcers, burns, abrasions, etc.

Honey had been used for years for so many ailments, could there be some merit to these unsubstantiated claims?

Firstly we did desk research, and sought advice from the scientific community. We were unable to locate any recorded incidence of wound botulism, and our scientific partners could not identify any incidences either. What we did learn however, was that other manuka honey's were gamma irradiated to eliminate botulism spores, preventing potential issues in their intended consumption/application. We then contacted Steritech Australia, and we were provided with information regarding the process of gamma irradiating honey to eliminate all botulism spores. Using an independent NATA laboratory we requested a spore count be conducted on the honey.

Recently we received the analysis report, and can reveal that NO spores were detected. All of the samples submitted returned the same result; no sporing anaerobes isolated.

Medi Bioactive Honey
Australia



BERRINGA
THE SUPER MANUKA

This is fantastic news for all users of Berringa Manuka, particularly those using the honey for wound care.

Meet the staff

What's

The Buzz

?

Stuart Castricum, Relationship and Business Development Manager

How many years have you been working in the food sector?

24 yrs

What was your favourite job before joining AOHC?...

It has to be working for George Weston Foods as Gen Mgr National Procurement for all pig meat and dry goods. It required frequent travelling to diverse facilities like piggeries, abattoirs, smallgood making facilities and warehouses . You met a wide range of people with all sorts of challenges.

What do most enjoy doing on weekends?

My wish list would be more golf ...but if that doesn't eventuate then poring over the weekend papers whilst watching a great game (AFL , Cricket , Soccer...)

How important is good health to you?

At this stage of my life its my biggest priority , its vitally important as it allows me to enjoy activities that I like .

Favourite place (here or overseas)?

Favourite place at the moment Nth Qld (Airlie Beach , Whitsundays , Townsville) and Perth as well

Best/funny childhood memory.

Have many . Best is family holidays caravanning to Wilsons Prom.
Here's one memory.

I was a Western Movies (cowboys) fan as a 6 yr old . There was an Anzac Day parade in my home town , my younger brother asked my father what were the soldiers marching for ? Me, being the more knowledgeable child, scoffed at him and proudly exclaimed " To fight the Indians stupid ! "

Favourite colour?

No longer discriminate but if pressed navy blue today... not to be confused with my favourite AFL team!

