



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News January 2021

*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 – Kershaw family

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AHBIC members 2021 Conference and Annual General meeting dates

New South Wales Apiarists Association (NSWAA) - Annual Conference and AGM, 20-21 May 2021, West Leagues Club, Tamworth NSW
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA) - Annual Conference and AGM, May 28 -29 2021, venue tbc
South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) - Annual Conference and AGM, 24 -25 June 2021 , Berri Hotel, Riverland
Bee Industry Council of WA (BICWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australasian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference 29 June - 1 July 2021, Perth WA - AGM to be advised
Victorian Apiarists Association (VAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Conference and AGM Sessions, 7 - 9 July 2021, Bendigo VIC - Recreational Beekeepers Conference 10 July 2021, Bendigo VIC
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)AGM, 11 July 2021, Bendigo VIC
Queensland Beekeepers Association - TBA
Honey Packers and Marketers Association - TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Association - TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association -TBA
Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW - TBA

AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



ABN 63 939 614 424

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 (9)

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

GOLD (9)

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

SILVER (24)

Australian Manuka Honey
Association Ltd
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
Manukalife Pty Ltd
McDonald, Eileen & Bob
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 (12)

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 & Sharon
Targett, Stephen
The House of Honey

COPPER (23)

AB's Honey
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Berry, Jessica
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Clarke, Michael
Frost, Liz
Geelong Beekeepers
Godman, Phil
Gustare Honey Australia
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
JBR Bees
Jordan, Corinne
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L
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 (21)

Australian Women in Beekeeping
Australian Virtual Hobby
Beekeepers Conference 2020
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping
Supplies
Ecrotek
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithfull, Mark
Gibson, David lee
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
Honey Australia P/L
Hampton, Tom
Hivekeepers
Lewis, Peter
Matsen, Jeff
McCormick Jenny
Moggill Honey
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Naicol P/L
The Tasmanian Honey Company
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

ANONYMOUS (10)

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](#).



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

1. With the passing of Bob McDonald our industry lost a true champion. I first met Bob at the Second Australian International Bee Congress held on the Gold Coast in 1988. After that I served time with him on the Honey Research Council which then became the Honey Bee Research and Development Committee under the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). From then on it was at various State conferences plus AHBIC Council where Bob was only too happy to chat and answer any question you may have.

Bob will be missed.

2. Helen has circulated a draft report on the Agvet Chemicals Regulatory Systems review currently under way to all AHBIC member bodies. I have a teleconference on 1 February, so if you have comments can you please provide them to me.

3. Some of you may have received an email supposedly from me asking for a meeting or to buy greetings cards. Sadly it is a feature of our world that these scammers are out there trying to make money by impersonating others who they are not.

Hopefully no one was caught out and the scammers have moved on.

4. With the start of the New Year I hope this year goes well for you and the problems of 2020 are behind you. Remember if you need to talk with someone there are many counselling agencies out there or maybe just talk with a fellow beekeeper.

CropLife Australia have heard your feedback through AHBIC regarding the BeeConnected app and have completed the work to make the app more user friendly. Please let us know if you experience any issues.



POST BIOSECURITY DETECTION OF EASTERN CARPENTER BEE, *XYLOCOPA VIRGINICA*

AHBIC has been advised of the finding of the eastern carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) in wood contained in a shipment of diesel engine components which arrived in Victoria ex the USA. Treatment followed by reinspection of all the timber in the consignment is underway.

I would see no ramifications for our industry in this find. There have been reports in the past of Varroa mites being vectored by large bees such as bumble bees so the carpenter bee would fall into this category.

However the time Varroa mites can survive without food is 5 days. So it would be unlikely that Varroa could survive on carpenter bees and the shipping time from the US to Australia would be more than 5 days.

Trevor Weatherhead AM
28 January 2021

NATIONAL VARROA MITE ERADICATION PROGRAM

The National Varroa Mite Eradication (NVMEP) continues in Townsville with no finds of *Varroa jacobsoni* or Asian bees since April 2020. Our proof of freedom stage comes in a few month's time. So fingers crossed we do not find any more.

Whilst we may keep our fingers crossed, the team in Townsville are putting in the hard yards. They put out some statistics which are impressive.

- In 2020 they walked 8,920 kilometres inspecting plants for bees and putting leaflets in letter boxes. To give you some idea that would be the equivalent of going from Brisbane to Perth and back and still not covering the distance they did by about 300 kilometres.
- They had 582 reports of bee nests and swarms from the public.
- They dropped almost 67,000 pieces of information into letter boxes to raise the public awareness about Varroa and Asian bees.
- They collected just under 70,000 pellets from rainbow bee eater birds to be checked for Asian bee wings.
- They carried out 338 tests on hives in beekeepers back yards remembering there are no commercial beekeepers based in Townsville.

So you can see a lot of work has been done and, if we have no more sightings in the next couple of months, then we can say that there are no more there.

Trevor Weatherhead AM
29 January 2021



NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

Happy new year! I am looking forward to 2021 and what can be achieved for the industry. Improving communication is a big agenda item for 2021.

As always a big thank you to our 'Friends of AHBIC' for your continued support and to the many friends who contributed again this month.

The AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Advisory Panel welcomes two new members to the panel. AHBIC would like to extend our congratulations to Jonathon Monson and Steve Fuller.

New opportunities are available in the latest AgriFutures Honey Bee and Pollination Program Targeted Open Call, which is now open. They are calling for proposals that address one of the following strategies:

- Field research
 - Honey bee sugar supplementary feeding
 - Honey bee protein supplementary feeding
 - Small hive beetle (SHB), *Aethina tumida*, external trap
 - Alternative floral resources
- Desktop research
 - Review of the security of tenure on public lands
 - Impact of hazard reduction burns on beekeeping floral resources
 - Levied research compendium

This Open Call closes 12 noon AEDT Thursday, 11 February 2021. Learn more about the Open Call and apply [here](#)

Further to the notice of the 5 January 2021 advising of the passing of Bob McDonald OAM from Castlemaine, Victoria on the 27 December 2020, John Kennedy has written an article about Bob which can be viewed on page 8.

HEAR FROM AHBIC's MEMBER – BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (BIWCA)

Happy New Year to everyone! Let's hope it will be a healthy and prosperous one.

It was a hot season so far with thirsty and hungry bees on top of devastating fires in the shires of Gingin and Dandaragan, which burned 9,500 hectares of land.

Site access is paramount for our industry and we are continuing to govern for our beekeepers at all levels. At the moment we are in contact with DBCA, DWER, WALGA and the Water Corporation for a more seamless way to access apiary sites. We work on this issue to get more info to you soon.

On an industry engagement level, we have two social announcements to make:

BICWA is collaborating with Slow Food Swan Valley, the CRC HBP and Noongar Land Enterprise for an evening of celebration, honey tasting and dinner. This event is held on FRI 12th FEB, starting 6pm at UWA. Ticket sale and more info on: <https://www.slowfoodswanvalley.com.au/event/wa-bees-for-the-future-food-security/>

Our Conference team lets you know that the Early Bird Ticket Sale ends on the 18th March. If you're interested in a sponsorship and business exposure opportunity please check the website <https://www.honeyresearch.com.au/partners-and-sponsors> or get in contact with the Committee via email to: bicwaconf@gmail.com

Stay safe and talk to you next month.

Regards, Brendon Fewster

APIMONDIA

- Please click [here](#) to read the Apimondia newsletter.
- Apimondia have extended the deadline for submitting candidatures for the positions of “scientific communication specialist” and “communication media specialist” to Sunday 7 February 2021. Please note that candidates can apply for one or both positions, if they deem that they possess all the required qualifications for both positions. On the Apimondia website <http://www.apimondia.org/> you can find the links to submit the applications for each of the positions above-mentioned.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Biosecurity Innovation Program - Applications for the 2020–21 financial year funding round opened on 9 November 2020 with submissions closing on 12 February 2021. Please visit: [research-innovation](#)
- AgriFutures Australia is excited to announce the next round of the Farmers2Founders Ideas program has launched.

The 12 week program is aimed at primary producers who want to test their big idea and gain the confidence to kick start a new business venture. Ideas could include exploring novel agtech solutions or new value-add food products for consumers.

The program will involve a series of workshops, resources and coaching to help validate an idea and develop a business model to bring the idea to life. You will get access to funding, tailored resources and coaching throughout the 12 week period and also grow your network across the agrifood industry.

Read more about the Ideas Program [HERE](#) and see some of the success stories from program alumni.

[Apply NOW](#) to turn that burning idea into a new income stream for your business in 2021.

Applications are currently open and will close 12th February 2021.



CONFERENCES

- Australasian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference – Save the date - 29 June - 1 July 2021, Perth WA
[Please click here](#)
- The 47th Apimondia Congress is postponed until [2022](#)

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS

- “Honey bees made this possible” - Record [almond](#) harvest is coming despite a challenging year for agriculture
- Queen bee shortage leaves beekeepers in Australia struggling to rebuild [hives](#)
- Market Access Advice 2020-16, United Kingdom: Multiple Commodities: BREXIT changes from 1 Jan 2021 affecting Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This has been published on the [departments website](#).
- Efficacy of propolis as an adjunct treatment for hospitalized COVID-19 patients: a randomized, controlled clinical [trial](#)
- AHBIC continues to campaign 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

- *The sample size is about 100g. If foundation two sheets will be needed.*
- *Contact details of person submitting*
- *Where purchased, when*

How it was advertised, was it sold as pure beeswax or as Australian beeswax.

THE LATE BOB MCDONALD OAM

Bob the doyen of Victorian beekeepers passed away on 27 December in his ninetieth year.

John Kennedy wrote the below which was published in the December edition of the Australian Bee Journal.

Five hours spent with Bob & Eileen McDonald around the kitchen table at their home in Castlemaine is an inspirational experience.

Bob now in his ninetieth year (born July 20, 1931) is the doyen of Victorian beekeepers and no one else is better known in beekeeping circles for industry leadership and a formidable contribution on so many fronts.

Eileen his wife of sixty years has been a major contributor to the family business R & E McDonald located only a block away from their home – although it now continues under the operation of two of their sons Peter and Rob.

She reminded me that as a wedding present Bob effectively bought a caravan so she could join him on the road with the bees with a bit better comfort than the swag or a tent!

Nevertheless, Eileen was at Bob's side throughout his long migratory beekeeping role (he was often on the road with truckloads of bees for months at a time).

But their marriage produced six children - five boys (always a great asset in beekeeping!) and one daughter.

Bob's entry into beekeeping and where it has taken him bears a lot of analysis.

There is a great moral and personal story involved for Bob says when you find an interest that appeals or suits you, then 'you must never stop learning to just become even better at it'.

Bob was born the second of five children on July 20, 1931 in Wangaratta.

Bob's father had been gassed in the First World War and was to die prematurely at age 49 largely in consequence when Bob was only fourteen and clearly one of a tribe of children.

In the post-depression, pre-World War 11 times life was tough, and the family moved around both in search of a living and residence.

Bob gained his Intermediate certificate via Brunswick Tech but realising that a job was the next step he was responding to advertisements always wanting 'a job in the bush'.

One was offered on a sheep property at Holbrook advertised in the Weekly Times where he was accepted.

The property a large station ran sheep as well as six or seven hundred beehives which travelled a bit into the Upper Murray and had a mobile extracting plant.

He recalls that a proliferation of St Barnaby's thistle (an annual with a yellow flower) pretty much assured the flow with the honey sold to commission agents.

Bob says the summer he spent there was a tough wet year with the sheep heavily affected by fly strike.

He says he quickly learned that "a few stings were better than maggoty sheep".

Along the way he had invested one and six in an early edition of the Beekeeping in Victoria handbook published by the Department of Agriculture.

When this experience came to an end, Bob had gained a wealth of practical beekeeping experience and built a genuine interest in bees.

So, he returned to Melbourne in search of a new career and for a time cut chicory on French Island,

At seventeen he bought his first hive housed on a roof in the Brunswick backyard and all the while he was adding to his beekeeping gear.

Then another opportunity presented with beekeeper Ike Walker in Maryborough where as a three man team you needed to fend for yourself and find meals on the road for yourself and two offsidiers.

With modest savings, he bought forty eight hives from a dairy farmer at Buxton in the Acheron River valley.

He cannot recall either the vendor's name or what he paid, except that the hives could be moved four at a time on the bed of a former sidecar attached to a Norton motor bike. *(insert phot here)*

They were positioned in Sunbury where they produced a good flow on Yellow Gum off trees not far from the centre of Sunbury.

Then he relocated these hives on to more Yellow GUM at Elmhurst which was not as good due to the trees taking a hiding from the Yellow Box Beetle.

At about 20 in 1951 he landed a limited hours role at the Railways goods yard which meant his afternoons were free for the hive jobs.

He was also night shift cleaning at the Kraft Cheese factory in South Melbourne.

Bob says I realised “if I wanted to be a beekeeper, I had to teach my self”.

Then he heard about the northwest Mallee for its legendary production capacity and he found it was easy to get country or sites there (some are still held and accessed by McDonalds Honey today).

(There is a raft of stories in this sequence – how many times they got bogged, the recoveries, and importantly the intimate knowledge he developed of the Mallee vegetation types and their sites!)

At that time very few commercial beekeepers worked the Mallee country.

More hives were acquired from Avoca beekeeper Bill Holland and by the 1950s the McDonald enterprise was reaching 250 hives.

Bob says he had learned that red gum pollen produces good bees and he had invested a lot of time looking at trees especially Eucalypts to determine if they were in bud and when they might flower.

Eileen added that after they were married Bob spent so much time looking out the window of the car at the vegetation when he was driving. she often felt the risk of running off the road.

Eucalypts became a prime study for Bob and about which he has presented and written on many times over the decades.

Understanding them and especially their budding and flowering cycles has become a key plank in Bob’s ‘always keep learning and expand your knowledge’ philosophy.

In the middle of this phase Bob took time to get married to Eileen – the attractive young lady from next door in Castlemaine where he was now based.

He was aged twenty nine and by this stage had built to 250 hives

In 1953 Capilano was formed in Brisbane and having latter acquired the Tonkin Honey packing business became established in Maryborough.

From about this point that the role of the PDS Cooperative and multiple honey commission agents (all taking a 7.5% commission on honey sales) was diminished in Victoria.

McDonald Honey continued its migratory role into the Murray and Murrumbidgee districts, Bob by this time moving over from camping to the comfort of sorts with the caravan and a mobile extracting plant in tow.

Commenced here also was a succession of larger trucks from the first thirty hundredweight capacity Morris Commercial which with fifty hives on board was overloaded (*insert standing photo here*).

But from this point on for a decade or so there is a gap in history.

Bob’s early schoolbook records where he recorded hive numbers and production are missing.

(The moral for beekeepers here is to keep good and secure records!)

Son Peter who has created a family production history is unable to find information to fill in gaps in the records but he notes the significant changes in the 70s & 80s like the switch over from four gallon (sixty pound or twenty seven kilo) kerosene type units drums to 200 litre hot dipped galvanised steel drums, to the now standard IBC containers.

Peter recalls that Rheem Australia the fabricator of the galvanised drums would only produce them in runs of 400 units and it was up to Bob to gather his fellow beekeeper’s orders so he could present Rheem with a 400 drum order!

About this time Bob made a major move with hives into the central west of NSW around Coonamble and Coonabarabran in the black soil country; -this was in response to a 1967 drought in Victoria.

Working alongside a local district beekeeper he found enough sites for the season to be saved by a good growth of Wild Mustard followed by Mugga Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*).

While he regularly placed hives into the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan districts this exercise seems the most northern of Bob's seasonal trips.

I asked Bob about the major changes he has witnessed in his long career.

In response he stressed the flexibility in the quest for honey.

If the Mallee season didn't produce, most often in dry seasons, then you had to know your alternatives and where to find them – eucalypts, banksia, tea tree, canola, lucerne and other sources in readiness for and after pollination as almonds in particular have risen in importance.

(A report that Bob produced on his own operations for guests at Apimondia 2007 in Melbourne on a Technical Tour showed that it was not uncommon for a McDonald hive to have travelled over a thousand kilometres in their first season, with five or six site changes- or say half for spring build-up and half for honey production.

Second season hives could double this distance travelled.)

Bob plumped for materials handling advances as the most importance change saying he always stuck with eight frame over ten frame hives as at least he could lift them!

"The arrival of forklifts and similar mobile vehicles in the field has been our game changer" he said.

Uncapping machines in the honey shed that allowed the traditional knives to be thrown away was another welcome innovation.

On the subject of bees, he thinks that generally we are moving to better lines of stock with more advances coming with hybrid vigour being the objective.

And where does Australian beekeeping stand by an international comparison – "Well right up there with the best", Bob says.

Another change that gets a tick from Bob has been the success of hot wax dipped and painted timber bee hives achieving a much longer useful life in the field,

Interestingly the McDonalds have always made their own bee boxes.

Around the countryside trees would be identified as to their likely suitability and secured and usually milled at local sawmills to planks and after drying processed themselves.

Peter assured me this in house hive production continues at Castlemaine and only rarely are boxes bought in.

R & E McDonald the enterprise that Bob & Eileen created continues at Castlemaine on the compound that has been progressively developed over many decades.

As a business it now runs to about 2,300 hives with a range of pollination roles and an objective to make 200 tonnes of honey in as many years as the seasons and good management allows.

Bob and Eileen have retired from the commercial side of the business with sons Robert and Peter operating individual businesses but utilising the same infrastructure on a shared basis.

BOB McDONALD'S LONG INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION

Throughout his life Bob has been at the forefront of apiary industry issues with his active participation and representation on many important bodies.

Consider a few of these-

Central Victorian Apiarists' Association

Recognising the need for a local representative body Bob joined with fellow district beekeepers in 1965 to set up this still continuing and active group.

He has held most of the executive roles and was the key proponent of regular field days, informative training meetings, flora surveys, family picnics and giving a voice to industry and regional issues.

Victorian Apiarists' Association

In 1966 he was appointed to the executive Council and continued with an active contribution well into the nineteen nineties. Included is a two year term as President.

Bob was awarded a Life Membership in 1988 in recognition of his contribution.

The VAA Royal Melbourne Show Display

Bob was the convenor for twelve years from 1975 - 1987 arranging the display, organising the volunteers to man the display, setting up, then dismantling the display and housing it until next year at the Castlemaine yard.

Under normal (or non -COVID years the Melbourne Show display remains a vital part and fundraiser for VAA activities.

VAA Resources Committee

As the key interface with land managers and government agencies Bob has performed an enduring role in liaison, meetings, submission writing and negotiations to represent beekeepers in the continuing challenge for access to public lands and for overall recognition of the important role which the industry plays in agriculture. Bob served as Chairman from 1998 to 2006.

Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association (FCAAA)

As the national body Bob held many roles and he regularly attended the annual meetings of the state organisations. This led to the formation of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and its inauguration in 1988 as the industry body for honey packers, producers, pollinators, queen bee breeders and beekeepers of all sizes with the lead role continuing today.

Bob was an executive member at incorporation and continued in various roles until 2003

In 1993 Bob was awarded the Goodacre Memorial Award for Meritorious Service to Apiculture

Australia Honey Board

As a statutory marketing board existing from 1962-1992 when it was disbanded by the Hawke-Kerin ministry Bob represented Victoria for sixteen years.

He notes with a smile that although its disbanding was an easy scalp for the government of the day the AHB did effectively put a floor price into the honey sales market as well as helping to grow a significant export market for honey.

Australian Honey Bureau

As the relatively short (three year) successor to the AHB from 1992 Bob represented the industry for two and a half years.

Honey Bee Industry Research Council

Representing honey producers Bob served in this role for thirteen years.

Crop Pollination Association Inc.

As the pollination sector has grown in significance over the years Bob was inaugural president in 1992 and continued as an executive member until 2003 and was at the forefront in educating beekeepers in the presentation of pollination services.

National Council of Pollination Associations Inc.

Serving as secretary at inception in 1997 Bob ensured national representation of the sector via the AHBIC.

APIMONDIA

From 1999 on Bob was the leader of attempts and proposals to gain this important international event for Australia, finally culminating after almost eight years of effort to the award of the APIMONDIA Congress to Melbourne in September 2007.

This led to the staging of the eminently successful event in Melbourne in 2007 as the key international event for apiculture.

As a member of the organising committee Bob with the aid of the members of the Bendigo branch of the VAA arranged several tours of local facilities at Castlemaine and Maryborough.

Bob and Eileen have personally attended no less than six international APIMONDIA meetings held at two year sequences around important national beekeeping destinations.

Victorian Farmers' Federation (VFF) Beekeepers Branch

Bob has always felt that our honey industry has had very little political clout, noting that many commercial beekeepers are also members of the VFF.

Although over the years the VAA has opted not to formally cooperate, some VAA members have formed connection giving them access to legal, political, and other valuable contacts leading to better recognition of apiculture as a legitimate participant in agricultural and horticultural production.

In Summary

From his earliest days as a beekeeper Bob has always been mindful that some industry members were always jealous of their territories and were secretive about sharing information.

He has always had a willingness to share his own information and knowledge and through his active industry representation he has succeeded in building an open and progressive Australian apiculture sector.

It is important to acknowledge Eileen's contribution as wife, partner and active supporter and participant alongside Bob in so many of the R & E McDonald beekeeping business and projects.

Eileen also edited for the Australian Bee Journal (ABJ) from October 1994 to June 2004. She was elected to the VAA Executive Council – 1996 to 2004 and acted as Minute Secretary for the Resources Committee 1994 to 2006.



In 2004 Bob received an Order of Australia Award (OAM) for his contribution to the development of the apiary sector and his multiple roles as a beekeeper and industry representative.

In 2019 Eileen McDonald received an Order of Australia Award (OAM) for her significant contributions both in beekeeping and on so many fronts to the Mount Alexander Shire, including the local Castlemaine community, was also acknowledged.



As befits a man who has devoted his lifetime to the bee industry in all its aspects Bob has accumulated a significant collection of aids and appliances used in the industry down the generations.

Proving that necessity is the mother of invention he is holding a smoker fabricated from a home-made blower and two dog food tins with a bit of judicious soldering.

This unit found in east Gippsland was a donation to Bob's extensive own collection.

B-QUAL

Make sure you sign up to B-QUAL – an important quality assurance system! Click [here](#) for more information. You can access the B-QUAL December newsletter at <https://honeybee.org.au/category/news/>



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www.honeybee.org.au

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.