



Australian Honey Bee INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2021



Contents



Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

About AHBIC - Fact Sheet	1
Chair Report, Trevor Weatherhead	3
CEO Report, Helen Goodall	5
Member Reports	7
New South Wales Apiarists Association	7
Victorian Apiarists Association	9
Queensland Beekeepers Association	10
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	12
South Australian Apiarists Association	14
Beekeeping Industry Council of Western Australia	16
Amateur Beekeeping Association of NSW	18
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia	19
Australia Queen Bee Breeders Association	22
Other reports	24
B-QUAL	24
Goodacre Memorial Award	26
Apimondia	27
Annual Financial Report	29



**Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is the national representative body for the honey bee industry.

AHBIC works to protect the long-term economic viability, security and prosperity of the sector and to promote the important links between the honey bee and healthy Australians.

AHBIC advocates nationally for its members in each state plus a state based amateur group and three national associations which represent individuals and businesses from across the supply chain, and includes recreational beekeepers.

Focus areas

POLICY

AHBIC works with all levels of government to advocate for industry needs to be reflected in policy. Priority issues include the protection of beekeepers' access to floral resources, mitigating pesticide and biosecurity risks, access to labour, navigating state-border restrictions caused by COVID-19, and securing market access and optimising trade.

BIOSECURITY

AHBIC monitors biosecurity threats and works to protect the honey bee industry from exotic pests and diseases by collaborating with governments to ensure safeguards are in place. AHBIC also partners with government and Plant Health Australia to communicate vital biosecurity information to member organisations and beekeepers, and develops a range of supporting educational resources.

EDUCATION

AHBIC conducts education, promotion and public relation campaigns, and works with organisations such as AgriFutures, to implement extension programs to encourage the adoption of best practice in production, quality assurance, presentation and promotion of honey bee products. Engaging and informing consumers, and the agricultural industries reliant on pollination, about the importance of the honey bee industry is also an important area of focus.



10
Member groups



29,800
Beekeepers represented
(commercial and recreational)



6 Government
submissions in
past six months

*Figures current as of May 2021.



Australian Honey Bee INDUSTRY COUNCIL

FUNDING

As an organisation AHBIC operates on voluntary contributions. AHBIC's activities would not be possible without the contributions and strong relationships that have been built with both industry and non-industry groups and individuals who invest in supporting a sustainable and strong future for the honey bee industry.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In collaboration with Rural Aid, AHBIC provides vital support to the beekeeping community through initiatives such as Hive Aid, which offers practical and financial assistance to professional beekeepers impacted by drought, bushfires and natural disasters. This help is delivered through counselling services, financial help and access to Farm Army volunteers.

AHBIC partnered with Woolworths to deliver the Discovery Gardens Program in 2021 to promote our industry and educate customers on the importance of the honey bee in pollination.

Adulterated beeswax threatens industry

AHBIC is campaigning to stop the use of adulterated beeswax. Australian beeswax is pure and needs to stay that way.

PURITY

As there have been issues with poor quality imports of honey and wax products, AHBIC continues to lobby groups, such as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the state and territory government food regulators, to try and ensure proper and clear labelling, fair testing of imported products, and swift action on products that are found to be substandard.

AHBIC is challenging the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), and the state and territory government food regulators, to enforce stricter legislation around the importation of beeswax. However, the Australian honey bee industry also needs to do its part and avoid purchasing cheap imported beeswax that may be adulterated. To find out more information on this issue, visit honeybee.org.au.

Become a friend of AHBIC

Bees, and beekeepers, play an invaluable role in producing what the world eats, and they already contribute \$14.2 billion annually to the Australian economy. The Australian agriculture industry aims to reach \$100 billion of farm gate production by 2030, but without healthy, managed honeybees this target cannot be achieved.

Honey bees are at the heart of a healthy Australia, however the industry faces significant challenges, which must be overcome if the industry is to grow its prosperity and resilience, protect the health of the species, and ensure the ongoing production of nutritious foods to nourish communities across the country.

To do this, AHBIC needs the support of people and businesses who also appreciate the importance of the Australian honey bee. We highly value the voluntary contributions of its "Friends of AHBIC" to ensure the organisation can effectively advocate on behalf of the industry.

To become a friend of AHBIC, and make a voluntary contribution, go to www.honeybee.org.au

Sign up

Sign up to the monthly AHBIC newsletter and receive the latest industry news to your inbox.



Australian Honey Bee Industry Council



@AustBee



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Australian Honey Bee Industry Council



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honeybee.org.au

Strategic partners



This past year has been a challenging one. With the Covid restrictions that came in from time to time it made beekeeping interesting.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Executive and members of the various Sub-committees for their input into the running of AHBIC this past year. It has been appreciated.

AHBIC has started a campaign to ask beekeepers and the public to use Australian beeswax. We know from the analysis of imported foundation and block wax that has been tested they contain paraffin and chemical residues. AHBIC approached the Import Foods section of the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment regarding having imported beeswax tested but beeswax is not listed as a food so it could not be checked by that Department. AHBIC has lodged a complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regarding these products and we are waiting to hear what action they will take. So I appeal to all beekeepers to use only Australia beeswax. If not, then the premium price that we obtain for our beeswax overseas will be a thing of the past.

AHBIC has made several submissions this past year. They include:- Shelf registration and setting of an MRL for amitraz, FSANZ setting an MRL for glyphosate, National Agricultural Workforce Strategy and Agvet Chemicals Regulatory Systems review.

We have held various meetings during the year. These are held to help progress our industry, particularly with Government Departments. One of the more significant was the working group that was called by the Victorian Government Department to make sure that beekeepers could deliver hives into the almonds without having to quarantine for 14 days when they went back to their home State. The group was made up of representatives from the State beekeeping Associations and Government Departments in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, AHBIC, the almond industry and brokers. The result was that hives were able to be delivered and removed from almond pollination without any major problems. That group will be in place for this coming season.

In the Biosecurity space we had the interception of *Apis florea* dwarf honey bee in Brisbane in November 2020 and the false alarm with *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle in May 2021. Our National Bee Pest Surveillance Program comes to an end in December 2021 and it is being reviewed to see what form it can take after that date.

In addition, the AHBIC Biosecurity Sub-committee members are looking to identify areas in their State that are free from flora that can host fire blight. In the event that fire blight is found in Australia these areas need to be identified so that any hives that may be caught up in the incursion of fire blight can be taken to these areas until such times as the spores are no longer viable. This will save the hives from being destroyed. This needs to be done now.

AHBIC is working on having the inspection of all freight being loaded at overseas ports inspected more carefully so that any swarms or nests of unwanted bees are removed and we are not just relying on finding them when they arrive in Australia.

For years now AHBIC has been pushing for the five (5) zone system of Australia. This is to allow for the harmonisation of interstate movement of live bees within those zones or between zones if permitted. This has now progressed and is being worked on.

AHBIC continues to have conversations with various parties to see what analytical processes for honey can be put in place so that the results from these analyses can be enforceable.

Over the years AHBIC has had some overseas honey analyzed. Recently samples checked have been honey.

As a member of Plant Health Australia (PHA) they continue to carry out work on our behalf. This includes the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, National Bee Biosecurity Program which includes the Bee Biosecurity Officers, revision of the Industry Biosecurity Plan, BeeAware website and newsletter and the Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) course. Remember the BOLT courses is now free to all Australian Beekeepers.

I often hear beekeepers say they have had bees poisoned. When I ask if they have filled out an Adverse Experience Report and submitted it to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) they say no. It is crucial that you fill out one of these reports. When we go to APVMA and ask for action on a certain chemical that is affecting honey bees, they look up these reports and if there are no reports there then they say it is not a problem. You need to have these reports on the APVMA database. As I keep saying, if you do not report it, it did not happen.

AHBIC is continuing to liaise with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on the current negotiations of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU). Currently there is a tariff on honey from Australia into the UK and EU. We are asking that DFAT ask to have these tariffs removed so that we are then on a level playing field with honey imports from other countries.

Fall armyworm is now established in all States of Australia. Beekeepers need to be aware of any outbreaks as the chemicals used to control fall armyworm can kill honey bees. Here BeeConnected is a useful tool to alert growers to where your hives are located. This way they can advise you when they are going to spray.

The most pleasing news of this report is that by the time you read this we should be able to declare that we have eradicated *Varroa jacobsoni* from the Townsville area. The eradication program has been in place since 2016 with a total of three (3) unrelated incursions in that time. Thank you to the team from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries who have been leading the eradication program.

One year in as the CEO of AHBIC and looking back over the year there have been many challenges, however we have been able to celebrate some wins as well.

A bushfire recovery report was published by AgriFutures to help understand what needs to be done to support the honey bee and pollination industry recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires. Following the completion of the report in July 2020, AHBIC has continued to advocate on a national level, while the state associations worked at a state level. This has involved meeting and corresponding with Minister Littleproud, Departmental staff and the Bushfire Recovery Agency. AHBIC has been successful in gaining two grants to date. One grant for \$270,000 provided to Plant Health Australia to support implementation of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) and the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) throughout 2021. The second grant for \$600,000 is to AgriFutures to support research to understand honey bee biosecurity and nutrition with less forest resource. Both grants have been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

AHBIC has been undertaking work to implement an industry wide communications plan to raise the awareness of the importance of the crucial role of honey bees and the honey bee industry. This funding has been received from the Commonwealth Government. Work commenced in July 2020 with research agency Pollinate conducting research to develop a communications plan. Following this AgriFutures engaged BlueHillpr in April 2021 to work with AHBIC to deliver on the communications plan. This will include a brand refresh for AHBIC, an interactive social media presence, updated website and newsletter, increasing the media presence and providing educational videos and fact sheets. Improving the communication channels will allow for more user friendly, engaging and shareable information for industry and the public.

Over the last year to improve communications with our AHBIC members, regular member meetings have been held which has allowed for consultation and healthy discussions to occur on matters and issues affecting industry. AHBIC has also seen a large increase in the number of subscribers to the monthly newsletter which keeps readers updated on industry matters.

Through the Agrifutures Honey Bee and Pollination Small Grants program, AHBIC were successful in receiving a grant for the AHBIC Executive to undertake governance training through the Australian Institute of Company Directors. This training provided good information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the AHBIC Executive.

During the year we welcomed a new member, the Amateur Beekeeping Association of NSW (ABA). The ABA is the first new permanent member since AHBIC was created almost 22 years ago. This allows AHBIC to have continued representation from the non-commercial sector. AHBIC also had a transfer in AHBIC membership following a membership application from the Bee Industry Council of WA (BICWA) and the resignation of the WA Farmers - Beekeeper section.

An AHBIC Congress Sub - Committee has been formed and planning is well underway for the 4th Australian Bee Congress will be held from the 8 – 11 June 2022 at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Sydney.

There is much to do for the industry and limited resources to do it. AHBIC is solely funded by voluntary contributions and as such we highly value the voluntary contributions of our 'Friends of AHBIC'. Thank you to our 'Friends of AHBIC' for their continued support. During the year, we have retained many of our friends and welcomed new friends, seeing a 18% increase in the financial support which will help AHBIC to continue to promote and protect the industry. AHBIC has worked to engage with other industries for support, such as partnering with Woolworths to deliver the Discovery Gardens Program in 2021 to educate customers on the importance of the honey bee in pollination and promote the importance of the industry and beekeepers.



12 months on from the 2019 Bushfires - a slow recovery

New South Wales Apiarists Association Report

- Stephen Targett, Retiring President



WOW. The last two years have slid by very quickly. Two extremely challenging years with drought, followed by bushfires, then COVID-19 and lately the northern NSW floods. All have presented challenges for the NSWAA executive.

The apiary industry received good support from the government during the drought and also during and after the bushfires. Flood support has also been available to our industry.

A thank you to AHBIC that made sure that Federal bushfire funding wording was such that beekeepers would be eligible. Often with relief packages beekeepers are overlooked.

Leading up to 2020 almond pollination COVID-19 made crossing state borders a constantly changing beast. NSWAA members were given accurate advice on border crossing requirements almost daily through E Bees after executive sat in on very regular zoom meetings involving all interested parties.

COVID-19 did limit the executive moving some issues forward as meeting with government ministers and departments was impossible for over six months. Unfortunately we have not progressed our relationship with Forestry NSW.

Despite all the challenges we have moved forward. The Apiary Sites on Public Land document was updated. We recently held a workshop on updating the business plan. A NSWAA Biosecurity book has been developed and is ready for publishing.

The public land bee site single desk has progressed – while not perfect yet – it is easier to see what sites are vacant. Local Land Services have just been added to the mapping.

Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 Honeyland and NSWAA Conference. The executive made the decision to not have Honeyland this year as the Royal Easter Show gate numbers would be restricted. Sydney Branch had a small presence in Honeyland's place. These cancellations have had a negative impact on our finances however we are still in a sound financial position.

We held our AGM/Conference at Tamworth. This was well attended and was a very positive experience for all that attended. NSWAA would like to thank all our sponsors and trade show exhibitors at our conference.

The executive was able to secure a \$1.94 million grant under the NSW Bushfire Industry Recovery Initiative. This was finally made public by the government on World Bee day during our conference in Tamworth 20th May 2021. We are sure there will be substantial benefits for our industry from this project. Some of these benefits will flow to states adjoining NSW.

NSWAA made submissions on the following enquiries:

- NSW Independent Bushfire Enquiry and Terms of Reference;
- Forest Monitoring (NSW);
- Draft Report of the Independent Review of the AGVET regulatory System (National);
- Agritourism and Small Scale Agriculture Developments (NSW); and
- National Workforce Strategy (where we lobbied that overseas workers in the bee industry do NOT need to have university degrees).

The number of beehives and commercially registered beekeepers in NSW has increased sharply since the drought. It is disappointing that a lot of commercial beekeepers in NSW do not support their industry by being members of NSWAA or friends of AHBIC.

NSWAA believes that there has been a significant improvement in communications between AHBIC and member bodies, which is a great step forward. With honey prices dropping there is still an air of optimism throughout the industry.

Victorian Apiarists Association Report

- Phil McPherson, President



2020-21 has been an interesting year to be running a beekeeping business in Victoria. As I sit to write this report we once again have to ask ourselves can we hold our annual Conference or do we abandon this event for another year.

Covid-19 has dominated all aspects of life in Victoria with tight lockdowns early in the season restricting movement from home to do all but essential tasks.

- The V.A.A. has lobbied D.H.H.S. to allow access to care for and manage honeybees by recreational beekeepers and to allow commercial beekeepers to travel through restricted areas with a permit.
- Help establish cross border protocols to allow travel into neighbouring states for pollination and to work honey flows.
- Working with our neighbouring state Associations and government bodies to insure a smooth provision of pollination services for the Almond season has been a great success.

Commercially the last year has been one of the best honey production years in recent times with some big crops of honey taken across the state. Bees have finished the year in great condition to overwinter prior to the move to pollination on Almonds in August.

Registered beekeeper numbers continue to grow as we pass 13,000 registered Beekeepers. The vast majority of these are recreational but a small number of younger beekeepers are starting to establish themselves commercially within the industry.

Work on the study being done by Forest Solutions on behalf of the V.A.A. into prescription harvesting of timber in mixed species forest has not progress any further during the year due mainly to covid restrictions. The first half of the study has been finished with cutting of trial coups producing great results. Stage two involving further trial coups analysing Vicforests [sustainability impact] to refine a final prescription has not commenced at this stage. The V.A.A. is also pursuing with the assistance of Forest Solutions a management outcome for the protection of early flowering Red Ironbark stands in Victoria.

Despite the many challenges we face in this industry Beekeeping in Victoria is in great shape and moving to meet these challenges with renewed vigour. Hoping for a favourable outcome to the present Covid crisis.

Queensland Beekeeper's Association Report

- Management Committee



The past year has been a particularly challenging year for the Management Committee and our State Secretary Jo. Together, as a team, we have worked through the challenges and emerged stronger, more experienced and ready to tackle whatever may be thrown our way in the future.

COVID-19

Largely, the establishment of COVID-19 was a blessing of sorts for the Queensland Beekeepers' Association and industry. Through the constant engagement in Agricultural Coordination Group (ACG) meetings, and the never-ending phone calls and emails to voice the interests and needs of industry, we were able to accelerate our position up the chain of importance. Our migratory movements, and the dependence of strong healthy honey bees for pollination effectively paved our way, ensuring that our needs were considered alongside other larger scale agricultural stakeholders.

Fast forward 16 months, we are now quickly coming to grips with the 'new' normal. Although the pandemic is far from over, we are all begging to adjust and learning to live with the threat of the virus.

Access to National Parks

After nearly two decades of lobbying, October 2020 saw the QBA receive a strong written commitment from the Palaszczuk Government to extend access to all Queensland National Park Apiary sites until 31 December 2044.

Since receiving the written commitment, signed by the Queensland Deputy Premier, Hon Steven Miles, the QBA Management team have continued engaging with the Government seeking information on the Government's intention to deliver the legislated amendment.

Over the past few months, the QBA has also continued to build on our relationship with the Department of Agriculture and the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Mark Furner. In early February 2021, QBA hosted Minister Furner, newly appointed Director-General Bob Gee and Andrew Langford from DAF for a personal one on one tour of a working National Park apiary site. From all accounts, this visit seemed to spark the ignition and keen interest from the Minister and his department to continue to build on the important relationship between industry and Government.

The QBA Management Committee is continuing our concentrated effort on seeking a delivery of the legislative amendment to National Parks access. We are optimistic it will be delivered as soon as possible.

Native Title and Beekeeping

Whilst this process appears to be moving slow from the outside, internally QBA is dedicating great volumes of time, raising the profile of this matter with key Government decision makers, using every available opportunity to have our voices as a collective heard on this matter. It gives us great confidence to have someone

of Dominic McGann's calibre, experience, and wisdom giving much of his time to this matter.

Dominic has stated a number of times that he remains optimistic that a Government led and funded ILUA is the best possible outcome for the Queensland Honey bee industry. Interestingly, as Dominic has remarked, that the key for the industry is to see the legislative amendment extending access to National Park apiary sites delivered first, then obtaining the necessary ILUA's with some of Queensland's First Nations group will perfect the extension.

The QBA Management Committee will continue our work on this critical matter for industry and will provide updates as and when they can be made available to our members.

Drought

2020/21 saw another dry year for many of our members. The absence of rainfall at critical times of the year saw another challenging set of circumstances play out for anyone managing honey bee colonies.

Whilst we appreciate that the current drought is far from over, QBA will continue our conversations with the Department of Agriculture to identify possible pathways of support for our industry members still struggling to care for their honey bee colonies. It is also the intention of the QBA to work closely with the respective Departments on the long-term future of fire and drought impacted sites.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member and sponsor of the QBA, who have supported the Management Committee of 2020/21. It has been a challenging past year, that said we learn from past experiences to build a bright future.

Tasmanian Beekeeper's Association Report

- Lindsay Bourke, President



Tasmania's peak industry body for beekeeping (TBA) remains a very strong beekeeping organisation for beekeepers in Tasmania and a very active contributor to Australia's beekeeping and beekeeping politics.

Last year at the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), Tasmania moved five motions for the AHBIC executive to act upon, four of which were passed.

Last year after the TBA AGM the Southern branch, in their wisdom, decided to leave the peak industry body (TBA).

Sadly Missed.

During the year the TBA lost one of our Life Members, Bob Davey. A Life member who contributed an enormous amount of time and effort to the TBA. We will miss Bobs intellectual input.

There was a very good leatherwood crop this year because of a wonderful spring build up, however, there was not much spring honey was produced. Instead, it was used as a building honey flow and turned into strong hives to go to the manuka and leatherwood. That is how three beekeepers in the north produced 677 tonnes of honey 67.7% of Tasmania's honey crop and 3.88% of Australia's honey crop.

Tasmania has produced 1,000 tonnes of honey and although only 2% of Australia's beekeepers managed to produce 5% of Australia's honey crop.

COVID

The past 12 months have been a bit tough for everybody including the honey bee industry.

We honey exporters have not been able to go overseas and our customers have not been able to visit us.

Air freight and sea freight are still problematic due to inconsistency of flights and it affected the small package bee industry here in Tasmania.

Biosecurity

The new biosecurity act passed both houses. TBA was present at all the meetings for two years as it was working through all the issues with all industries and government.

Now we can have compulsory registration that is due to be enacted by December this year.

Honey levy and Friend of AHBIC

Are YOU paying both?

Or only one?

Or none at all?

If not SHAME on you.

You are leaving up to your buddies to pay for your industry and all the benefits.

Honey Levy

Compulsory levy 4.7c for every kilogram of honey produced.

Presently there is an exemption for people with only 30 hives if they don't produce more than the average honey produced in the eastern part of Australia including Tasmania. Average honey produced is 50kg per hive. You only need 30 hives x 50kg = 1.5 tonnes. Some small producers can concentrate on their small number of hives and produce an excellent 100kg per hive crop per year. That is only 15 hives to go over the amateur exemption.

In Tasmania 34 beekeepers should be paying the compulsory levy, sadly only 17 beekeepers who are eligible are paying. It is your industry, please help your industry and all of us, pay your compulsory levy. The money that is collected goes into our industry for research and development with every dollar matched by the Federal Government. As well as biosecurity and the war chest that beekeepers are preparing for to fight Varroa if it comes to Australia.

Friend of AHBIC

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is our industry's national peak industry body and all states are members.

AHBIC are our watchdog and report to all levels of government, plant health, biosecurity etc. We need more support from you, our beekeepers, stop leaving it up to your friends to help while you plead ignorance. If you are not helping AHBIC, even in a small way, then I know you are a disappointment.

Thank you Liz Douglas for your contribution with our Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Newsletter. I was very interested in page 12 this addition, Draughty Bee Boxes, about the heat loss is through the lid, what about ventilating with bottom boards?

Maxine our wonderful secretary. Maxine and I have a very good working relationship. On behalf of our executive, on behalf of all our members and especially on behalf of myself thank you Maxine.

What a wonderful state and what a wonderful honey bee industry we work in. Keep enjoying it and please support each other.

South Australian Apiarists' Association Report

- Josh Kennett, President



As we look back at the year just gone, some of us may be thinking it wasn't such a great season for honey production but remember, it was a step up from the season before so it good to be thankful for the small things. It was definitely a mixed bag with the dry weather, but there were some reports of good flows, some Blue Gum yielded in areas and some late Tea tree helped a few beekeepers along.

The Executive have been busy the last twelve months with many projects on the go including:

Bush fire recovery where we started a "Go fund me page" to raise over \$75,000 for the Kangaroo Island beekeepers. The remaining funds will soon be allocated to project/s that the KI Beekeepers have put forward.

We also sourced a grant from PIRSA to run two very successful Queen rearing courses both on KI and the mainland for fire effected Beekeepers.

We have also partnered with PIRSA on another grant that will see three projects get under way very soon. The projects are targeted at bushfire recovery and the ways SA can bounce back both financially and physically. The three areas are: revegetation, Agri-tourism and creating greater value for honey. There will be more details on the projects at the Conference and throughout the coming season.

A 'kick the tires' field day was held at Mypolonga which was a very successful day with 80 attendees and plenty of displays of trucks, loaders and extracting vans.

Land access has been high on the agenda this year with the first round of the pilot program in Forestry SA finishing up, the SA Water pilot program almost getting up before it was abruptly taken away by a bushfire and the Draft DEW Apiary Policy that went out for consultation earlier this year. Thank you to all of you that submitted feedback and to those that have supported our efforts to get better access to resources. With the growing number of hives in the state we definitely have a need for more sites.

The Virtual Conversations Series that we ran in place of last year's conference was a great success with many people logging on. A very big thank you to all the presenters that gave their talk online and to the sponsors that made it possible to keep the information flowing through the lock downs of Covid-19.

We have seen a rise in membership this year as the popularity of beekeeping grows in both the recreational and commercial sectors. There is a real thirst for knowledge out there and there are very few ways of getting information about our industry. As we have mentioned before, if you are not a member of an Association, we have no way as industry of communicating with you. Many now see our Association as the go to place to source information. We have made significant improvements to The Buzz making it one of the best in the country, conducted informative Field Days and the new website and Learning Hive is up and running.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's conference at Berri. It should be a great Conference with some fantastic guests coming to share their knowledge, plenty of socialising to be had and a perfect opportunity for some networking.

Bee Industry Council of WA Report

- Brendon Fewster, Chair



When we thought last year we would find ourselves coming out of a rather strange time with Covid, well now we know that this is probably our new normal. We have learnt to adapt quickly and meet rather virtually than in person. Lucky enough our core bee business needs personal attendance and we were still able to drive through the country.

This years Honey Month May Festivities were crowned by the Honey Festival 2021, hosted at the Small Farm Field Days in Gidgegannup. It was a very well attended event with lots of community engagement, bee talks and fun.

On a beekeeping note, the spring harvest in 2020 started as an average beekeeper year and proved to be a tough summer with starving bees. Overall, it has been a very average year, and the intake of honey is estimated to be 30% down on last year figures. Beekeeper registrations are still on the raise with 438 new entries bringing it to a total 3,990 beekeepers by end May 2021.

Here a few snapshots of our Industry year:

- BICWA continued with the industry re-structure plans to transition from a volunteer led peak body to a self-funded, professional organisation headed by a CEO.
- BICWA remains of three member organisations from the 1st July 2021. The Agriculture Producers' Committee (APC) terminates its membership as of 30th June.
- The Annual General Meeting 2021 was held on the 28th May and the following Directors have been elected:

Name	Position	Member Body
Brendon Fewster	Chairman	WAFarmers
Mikey Cernotta		WAFarmers
Mat Welch		WA Beekeeping Assoc
Shane McLinden		WA Beekeeping Assoc
Leilani Leyland		WA Apiarist Society
John McLoughlin		WA Apiarist Society

- The Forest Management Plan Board - BICWA is pleased to have preliminary discussions with the board in relation to creating the next draft of the Forest Management Plan 2024 - 33.
- DPIRD Biosecurity Officer - BICWA is investigating increasing this key position to keep our State disease free and provide support for our beekeepers.
- DBCA fire meetings - BICWA continues liaising with the Department and its representatives which shows positive outcomes, such as the invitation to discuss the next season's burn plan and aspire better outcomes which is very encouraging.
- DBCA site access - A new apiary site platform, which will simplify site application procedures and provide the possibility for site trading within

-
- beekeepers, is awaiting final approval.
 - DWER / DBCA site authorities and clearing application - New regulations will see changes in site authority including the clearing application process. A smooth handover from DBCA to DWER is anticipated.
 - BICWA continues to have a strong relationship with its research partners ChemCentre and the CRC for Honey Bee Products.

A huge thank you goes to the BICWA committee for the time and effort they have taken away from their businesses to help BICWA create some roads into the industry's future viability.



Honey Festival 2021

Due to a change in financial year, ABA members have just enjoyed an extended 18 month membership period. This resulted in a “renewal holiday”, which was a welcome relief for beekeepers who have spent the past year dealing with drought, fire, flood and COVID-19.

The ABA has experienced significant growth over the past four years, and now has 33 affiliated clubs (two in Queensland, one in the Northern Territory, and 30 in New South Wales, with members residing in every state and territory of Australia).

Despite most clubs being unable to offer face-to-face meetings for most of the year, membership has grown steadily, rising by more than 50% from 2900 on 31 December 2019 to over 4600 on 30 June 2021. This growth could in part be attributed to increased interest in practical hobbies during lockdown.

Over the year, the ABA has worked to promote our motto “Better apiculture through knowledge”. The Association was able to assist our clubs by providing the technology to run online meetings and training courses, while directly supporting members with various initiatives including:

Supplying every member with a Membership Pack that included:

- Membership card (showing beekeeper registration details, where provided)
- 2020/21 Log Book for appropriate record keeping
- PHA Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers
- Swarm System (to allow the public, local councils, etc to locate registered beekeepers in their area willing to collect swarms as a community service)
- AFB alert emails (currently for members in NSW only)
- Ongoing project that offers free testing of recreational beekeepers’ honey samples for evidence of AFB, and support to help those with positive results to manage their hives
- Provision of optional and affordable Public and Products Liability insurance

The ABA has also worked closely with the NSW DPI on initiatives such as Sugar Shake Month, for which we purchased and distributed 552 Sugar Shake Kits to our clubs in NSW, Qld and the NT.

We are now processing membership renewals and preparing to distribute 2021/22 Membership Packs, which will include:

- 2021/22 Log Book - revamped with new sections for recording honey harvests (prompting users to fulfill their Honey Levy obligations) and details of all colonies, packages and queens acquired or disposed of (in response to revised biosecurity obligations in NSW)
- A kit for submitting suspect brood samples to state vet labs for AFB diagnosis
- A 3-page flyer to encourage and assist members to undertake BOLT training

Logbooks and biosecurity kits are made available via our online shop to any recreational beekeepers who wish to order.

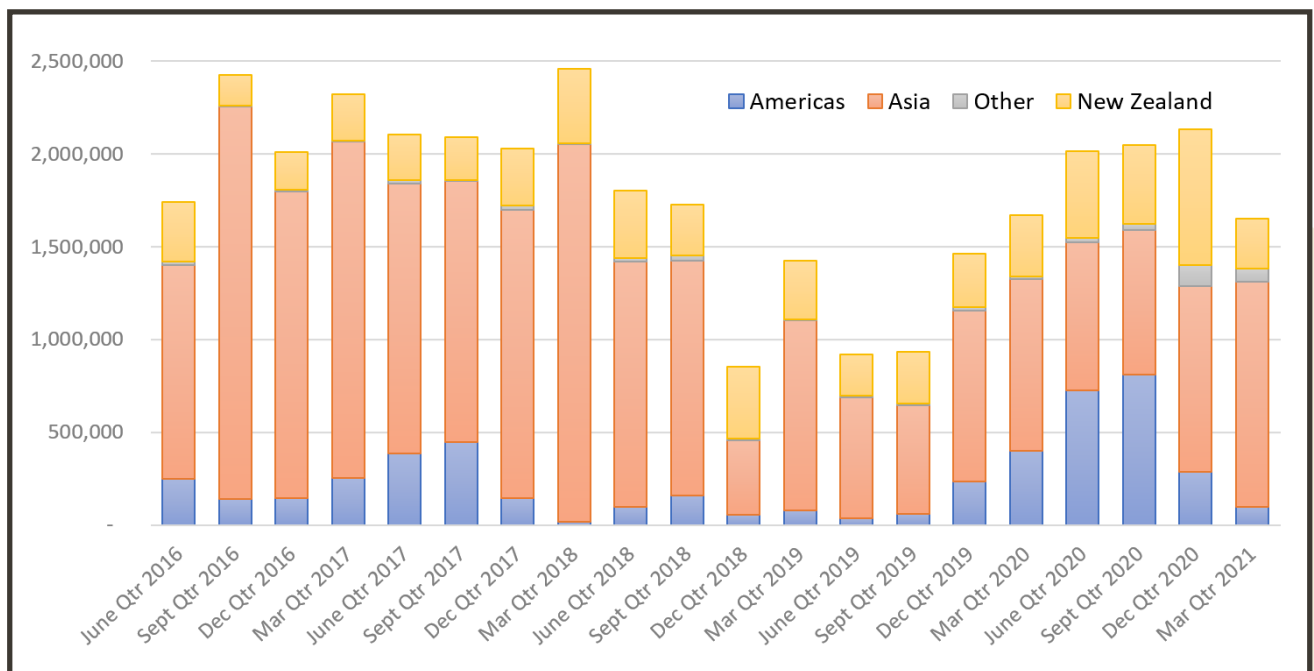
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia

- Ben McKee, President

The past year has seen a return to more average honey seasons and higher honey production, which has been welcomed by Australian packers following the devastating effects of drought and fires that impacted the 2019/20 honey season.

The COVID19 virus and the impacts that has had on society, community, economies, and business continues. Whilst lockdowns have generated some panic buying of honey, the net impact of a lack of tourists, students and travel has created many business complications for Australian packers.

For much of the recent season, Australian honey prices have remained at record high levels, leading to continuing high wholesale prices for packed honey and high consumer retail prices on-shelf. High Australian honey prices have led to some imported honeys offering increased value, which has seen imports rise and the market share of imported retail honey increase. During 2020, we have seen imports rise from the Americas, Asia and New Zealand (as illustrated in the graph below). Whilst it is common in times of reduced Australian honey production we see imports rise, there has been a notable increase in the presence of New Zealand table honey on retail shelves. Honeys from Asia, New Zealand and South America remain the dominant origins of import, as has historically been the case.



Honey Imports (kg) Over Time (2016 - 2021)

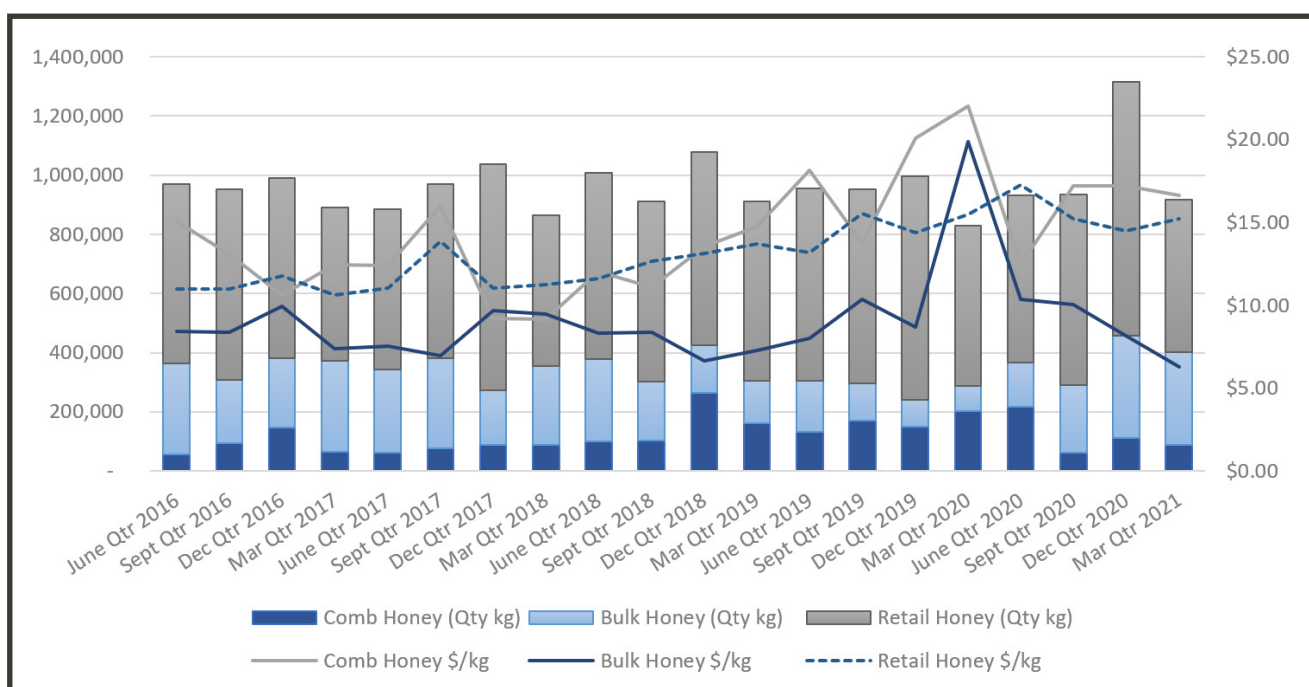
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Europe	\$9.73	\$10.14	\$11.06	\$12.95
South America	\$4.34	\$4.00	\$3.65	\$3.25
Asia	\$2.46	\$2.41	\$2.89	\$2.90
India	\$4.53	\$4.92	\$3.39	\$4.21
New Zealand	\$36.6	\$38.9	\$36.7	\$19.39
USA, Mexico, Other	\$7.26	\$9.15	\$9.42	\$8.20

Average Australian Imported Honey Costs (\$/kg)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Export volumes of honey from Australia have remained stable, with a spike in retail exports in the December quarter 2020 attributed to heightened volumes into the Middle East and North America. In recent times, bulk honey exports from Australia have increased, which may include blended honey for specific markets. The retention and growth of export markets for Australian honey has been impeded by the restrictions of COVID on overseas travel and the geopolitical tensions with our largest value trading partner China.



Honey Exports (kg) Over Time (2016 - 2020)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian retail supermarket and pharmacy segment is in slight value growth at a total market size of near \$159m (Source: IRI Data MTD to 23/05/21). The increase in category value can be attributed to rising raw honey prices and the inflation of shelf prices to consumers, as increased input costs of packers are recovered. There is a significant value decline in pharmacy honey sales. In terms of volume, the picture for the Australian retail supermarket and pharmacy segment is not great, as the category is in decline at 6.5% to an annual total of 9,495t (Source: IRI Data MAT to 23/05/21).

The work of the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) remains critical for sustained market access for Australian beekeepers producing Manuka honey. HPMAA is a member of the AMHA and encourage all facets of industry to support their work to overcome the commercial trademark applications stemming from New Zealand.

Interactions with the operations of AHBIC at Members Meetings has been a good initiative for industry to consult, hear various opinions and communicate viewpoints, which is hopefully helping industry unite and advance. AHBIC continues to rely heavily on the financial support of only a minority of industry participants, so we would encourage all to continue to support their work.

With the consultation and support of the HPMAA members, the focus for 2021 will be:

- Advancing the regulation framework for honey in Australia and internationally, while assisting the further development of research into Australian honey's unique chemical characteristics
- Lobbying and providing submissions to governments for the establishment of harmonised regulatory frameworks that facilitate market access, reflect health and safety, and the environment in which we operate
- Dispelling the myths and promoting a unified product marketing message for quality Australian honey

The packers and marketers of the HPMAA have worked hard to ensure Australian beekeepers get the best return for their tireless efforts, and we are proud to market a wonderful, sustainable, natural product. Many of us are looking forward to attending beekeeping conferences in person and wish beekeepers an improved honey production season in 21/22.

The Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association

- Management Committee



The management committee of the AQBBA consisted of Chris Kassebaum as President, Corinne Jordan as Vice President, Richard Sims as Secretary, David Briggs as Treasurer, and John Covey, Jody Gerdt, Stefan Lottering and Paul Reid serving as non-office bearing members.

In 2020-2021 AQBBA management committee focused on four main projects: Continuing work with Australia Post to ensure the safe delivery of queens. Continued work on biosecure pathways for the importation of honey bee germplasm and Queen Bees into Australia. AQBBA also drafted the revised the BQual Queen Bee Quality Standard and worked in an advisory capacity on the Plan Bee Queen Breeding Project.

Australia Post

Packaging guidelines are now in line with industry best practice and a provision for shipping live bulk bees has been included using Startrack. This is a major success, but now we are still working with Australia Post to address the continued mishandling and re-directing of bees while in transport which has led to significant losses for some queen producers.

Biosecure Importation of Honey Bee Germplasm

The AQBBA recognizes industry's desire for pathways to import new germplasm (queens and drones semen) into Australia and has been addressing two main impediments to importation: the capacity for successful queen/ nuc care in Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) and the ability to import germplasm free of exotic viruses. Two AQBBA members have been involved in troubleshooting problems encountered with the process of importing queens and helped create protocol and guidelines to inform future live imports and semen importation. Live queens from Europe were scheduled to enter the quarantine facility in spring of 2020 but due to delays arrived March 2021 as part of a joint AQBBA and CSIRO project funded by Hort Innovation. The first semen importation during August 2020 was successful and is currently undergoing further assessment. This project continues having been granted a further extension of 6 months to Dec 2022 due to Covid delays. The imported stock will be released to industry through the AQBBA after an 8-12 month assessment period.

Bqual Queen Bee Quality Standards

Queen Bee Quality Standards has progressed to final draft stage after compilation of suggestions from members and committee. AQBBA has now forwarded a draft of the upgraded standards to B-QUAL for further comment and feedback.

Plan Bee

AQBBA members supported Plan Bee through donation of stock to the breeding program and feedback and advice on the draft manual and selection criteria. As this project is ongoing, we will be continuing in our advisory and support role.

Website

Website has been migrated across to aqbba.org.au. The current platform enables easier additions and updates by committee. The new website has a members section with content for members only along with information of value and relevant to queen breeders/producers in general.

Facebook

AQBBA continues to maintain the Facebook page as a primary means for general communication and regularly shares items of interest.

Future Projects Include:

- Continuing to support Plan Bee
- Finalizing the Bqual standards
- Additional website resources for members
- A membership class for certified queen producers
- Reporting on the importation project and distribution of stock
- Thermal tracking of posted queen bees

Due to Covid restrictions we have like many had to learn to work within the framework of a new society. To overcome the restrictions placed on us by Covid we have turned to utilising technology better and with input from our program manager AUS-QUAL we have been able to put into place improved management techniques such as desk top audits, so this has meant that we have been able to maintain audit numbers throughout the year and at the same time maintaining the audit program integrity. Regular video meetings has meant the Board has been able to keep a close eye on the company during the difficult times, and all Board members have been unselfish with their time and we have achieved much in the year.

We have seen a constant new enquiry stream throughout the year and membership numbers and enquiries are increasing indicating the importance that producers are placing on Quality Assurance and accreditation, ensuring the viability of the B-QUAL program.

During the year B-QUAL was awarded a Commonwealth Government grant of \$189,000 to develop the Australian Honey Library and deliver an auditable traceability system. We are working with CRCHBP and The University of WA on this program and we are happy to report that the progress is in line with our grant milestones, and sample collections have commenced.

In addition to the Commonwealth grant we also received a grant from Agrifutures to produce a series of videos on B-QUAL and associated topics such as financial management of your business, the National Biosecurity Code of Practice and Mental health presentation by Dr Rob Gordon of ANU. These videos are on the B-QUAL website and are shared with the public.



B-QUAL has entered into a partnership participation agreement with CRCHBP and we look forward to growing that association in the future and being a major part of industry development projects.

In collaboration with the University of WA we have completed the B-QUAL digitisation app software and tested it with a number of B-QUAL members throughout Australia. The Board is very satisfied with the app and feedback and we intend to release it in coming months. There is no doubt this app will be of great advantage to all members in their record keeping and we would hope to see a savings in our members audit costs by the app information and the systematic presentation of records at audit time.

We have also seen the wider food industry image of B-QUAL greatly enhanced and we have been invited to join a number of food industry advisory groups

and participate in various traceability and assurance programs. This industry participation not only grows our industry image but contributes to the latest thinking and methodologies being incorporated in food provenance and traceability which in turn leads to improvement in our own program.

Our quarterly newsletter updates on the program and our progress and we thank those State Associations who provide a link on their websites giving us wider coverage.



**Wayne Fuller and Don Muir giving the B-QUAL report
- NSW Conference Tamworth May 2021**

The financial strength of B-QUAL is continuing to consolidate and with prudent management and the support from Steritech, CMV Group and Hive and Wellness. We thank our sponsors not only for their ongoing financial support but also for their interest and assistance in helping us achieve our objectives.

Again as always our program managers AUS-QUAL have done a great job in the day to day running of B-QUAL and we especially thank them for their dedication to our program.

Goodacre Award Report

- Elizabeth Frost, Secretary/Treasurer

Chair: NSW Apiarists Association President - Stephen Targett
Secretary/Treasurer: NSW Department of Primary Industries - Elizabeth Frost
Committee: Australian Honey Bee Industry Committee Chairman - Trevor Weatherhead

The Goodacre Award for 2021 was presented to Mr Charles (Joe) Horner at the NSWAA Conference in Tamworth 20 May 2021. The Goodacre Award for 2020 was presented to Marion Weatherhead at the QBA Conference on 4 June 2021. Please note this could not be presented in 2020 due to COVID-19 and conferences not being held.

- One part nomination was received in the last 12 months. Committee discussion recommendation that the application be expanded if there is further evidence of national services rendered. No further action taken.
- It was resolved that the term deposit be rolled over for a further 12 months with St. George Bank (Treasurer).
- The Goodacre Award committee recommends an increase in the media profiling the Goodacre Award as the pinnacle of awards and should reflect long term meritorious service. Secretary/Treasurer to profile award and 2021 winners in ABK spring publication.

Expenses 2020/2021:

- Illustration commission to update Goodacre Award: Artist Jessica Green, 14/10/2020, \$121.00
- Plaque & gift box – C.J. Horner: Purnell Trophies, Maitland NSW, 3/10/2020, \$108.95
- Plaque & gift box – M. Weatherhead: Purnell Trophies, Maitland NSW, 6/4/2021, \$108.95
- Lettering for honor board – Purnell Trophies, Maitland NSW 14/5/2021 \$90

Total Expenses

\$428.90 (to be reimbursed to Treasurer E. Frost August 2021)



Apimondia Report

- Jodie Goldsworthy, Apimondia Oceania President

Apimondia Signs MOU with FAO on World Bee Day

During the occasion of World Bee Day an MOU was signed between Apimondia and FAO. FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations whose mission it is to lead international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. The idea of a MOU has been discussed between the two organizations for a number of years and it is really wonderful to now have this agreement in place. The MOU allows for Apimondia and FAO to work together on the topic of bees and to utilise the networks and strengths of both organisations for the betterment of beekeeping and agriculture worldwide through both FAO's and Apimondia's objectives.

Apimondia has already begun work on two topics with FAO.

1. Apimondia will work with FAO to deliver four Biodiversity workshops aimed at linking regional government officials, farmers and beekeeper pollinators. The workshops will be held in Latin America, Ghana, Philippines and North Africa. The objectives of the workshops are to help provide good agricultural practice examples which support biodiversity and pollinator health in agricultural landscapes. This is an example of Apimondia being at the table to provide expert technical information to improve agricultural landscapes for bees and beekeepers.
2. The second project involves linking a working group from Apimondia with FAO Animal Production Officers through the development of a joint working group on "Monitoring the genetic diversity of managed bees for food and agriculture". FAO manages a system to monitor the genetic diversity of the main livestock breeds and has recently added bees to this work. This project will slowly begin to monitor the subspecies of bees to better be able to understand bee population trends to assist better decision making globally. It is envisaged that there will be a trial data collection in up to six countries with the view to then rolling out to all countries. Apimondia will assist the FAO Livestock Officers to work through mechanisms available for data collection options, challenges and opportunities.

Apimondia Makes the Most of Virtual Connections

Apimondia has trialed two Open House Zoom sessions, one in December 2020 and the last in March 2019. At these sessions a short verbal report is provided from each region and from the Scientific Presidents. This is an excellent way to hear first hand about all the events, meetings and activities that are happening amongst our Apimondia family. The Open House also allows time for open questions to be asked and discussion to take place openly amongst the Executive Committee and participants. More focus is being given to making these sessions more regular and more informative. One challenge is finding a time that works for a live Open House - with the America's having to be awake and be online at 6am and Australia and New Zealand joining in late in the evening and everyone else falling somewhere in between. It seems to be working, which is great.

Some of the updates provided through the Apimondia Open House have been:

- The focus in the EU on lobbying of EU member countries in relation to the new Common Agriculture Policy with the aim to influence politicians in relation to more pollinator friendly policies
- The fantastic work in Africa to support new beekeeping initiatives and the hosting of the South African Fake Honey Symposium which was held on World Bee Day with speakers from around the world.
- The work in Asia to have honey definitions take into account non *Apis mellifera* species and their work with native bee species to provide improved pollination.
- The increased focus on the European Honey Directives with the prediction that it is likely that they could be updated to include a greater focus on country of origin. There is a desire for the percentage of origin of each country to be included on the label.

Watch out for upcoming Open House sessions which will be communicated through the Rome Secretariat.

The work to recruit a Communications Officer for Apimondia is still progressing with the working group nearing its final stages of the process. We all can't wait to welcome a new person on board to provide much needed assistance to the Rome office with the massive workload of communicating with us all. It really is incredible the growing number of inquiries made to Apimondia and the connections that the Rome office is able to make to help people with their queries.

Ufa Congress

As you would be aware the Apimondia Congress in Ufa was postponed to 2022 but for everyone who is interested in getting a taste of what Ufa will bring next year the Ufa organising Committee are holding a two day Online Symposium on the 20th & 21st of September 2021.

These dates coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Apimondia Congress that was held in Moscow back in 1971 and are set to showcase Russian beekeeping. Save the dates!

Keep a regular watch on the Apimondia Website for more updates. There are lots of things posted on the website which you may find useful.

Stay safe and well everyone and best wishes for a strong global vaccination program and safer days ahead for all beekeepers and all peoples.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

ABN 63 939 614 424

Audited Financial Report

for the year ended

30 April 2021

Contents

General Account:

- ❖ Statement of Income and Expenditure
- ❖ Balance Sheet

Producer Contingency Fund:

- ❖ Statement of Income and Expenditure
- ❖ Balance Sheet
- ❖ Notes to the Financial Report
- ❖ Statement by the Committee
- ❖ Independent Audit Report

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2021

2020

2021

INCOME

146,329.45	Voluntary Contributions	173,563.62
3,561.13	Interest Received	1,659.50
1,636.38	Membership Dues	3,272.76
-	Plant Health Australia reimbursements for Biosecurity work	8,113.64
21,948.00	Federal Government Covid Cash Flow Boost	36,328.00
47,036.00	Grant Received	57,500.00

220,510.96

TOTAL INCOME

280,437.52

Less: EXPENDITURE

567.00	Advertising & Media Costs	-
3,085.86	Annual Meeting Costs	1,891.53
1,900.00	Audit Fees	2,410.00
709.74	Apimondia Membership	648.19
378.67	Bank & Eway Charges	638.50
2,581.03	Bookkeeping Fees	3,782.50
-	Conference Attendance Costs	393.64
1,477.74	Insurance	1,636.36
1,310.17	Office Supplies, IT Equipment	1,196.48
440.00	Postage	332.64
129.92	Printing and Stationery	-
-	Registration and Lodgement Fees	680.00
15,000.00	Remuneration - Chairman	3,750.00
165,529.52	Remuneration - Executive Director/CEO	140,000.12
693.32	Subscriptions/Memberships	1,071.55
-	Sundry Expenses	139.64
3,214.49	Meeting Expenses	217.27
1,433.30	Telephone & Internet Costs	1,478.61
-	Training Costs	5,000.00
25,522.19	Travel Costs	3,231.99
240.18	Trophy Expenses	-
601.88	WorkCover Insurance	909.09
968.18	Website Development & Maintenance	784.23
36,701.83	Grant Expenditure	48,000.00

262,485.02

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

218,192.34

\$ (41,974.06)

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

\$ 62,245.18

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial reports

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2021

2020

2021

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

299,608.84	Opening Balance 01/05/2020	257,634.78
(41,974.06)	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	62,245.18
<u>\$ 257,634.78</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2021	<u>\$ 319,879.96</u>

Represented by:

CURRENT ASSETS

87,170.75	Cash at Bank	
729.62	Bendigo Bank Statement Account	117,323.73
57,545.54	Bendigo Bank General Working Account	1,954.56
34,361.37	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	57,991.19
82,299.31	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	34,655.08
	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3	83,185.36
<u>262,106.59</u>		<u>295,109.92</u>
	Other Assets	
-	Sundry Debtors	11,900.00
-	Prepaid Costs for 2022 Bee Congress	23,908.50
<u>262,106.59</u>		<u>330,918.42</u>

FIXED ASSETS

29,725.00	Furniture and Fixtures at Cost	29,725.00
(29,725.00)	Accumulated Depreciation	(29,725.00)
<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
262,106.59	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	330,918.42

Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES

(171.82)	Net GST Payable to ATO	4,143.14
1,372.00	PAYG Withheld Payable to ATO	5,376.00
1,916.63	Superannuation Payable	934.32
1,355.00	Other Payables	585.00
<u>4,471.81</u>		<u>11,038.46</u>
<u>\$ 257,634.78</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 319,879.96</u>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial reports

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2021

2020		2021
	<u>INCOME</u>	
3,951.77	Interest Received - Bank accounts	7,183.83
3,951.77	<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	7,183.83
-	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	-
\$ 3,951.77	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	\$ 7,183.83

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial reports

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2021

2020		2021
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
468,120.94	Opening Balance 01/05/2020	472,072.71
3,951.77	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	7,183.83
<u>\$ 472,072.71</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2021	<u>\$ 479,256.54</u>
Represented by:		
	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	Cash at Bank	
44.97	Bendigo Bank Working Account	44.98
422,027.74	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	429,211.56
<u>422,072.71</u>		<u>429,256.54</u>
50,000.00	Loan to Australian Manuka Honey Association	50,000.00
<u>472,072.71</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>479,256.54</u>
-	<u>Less: LIABILITIES</u>	-
<u>\$ 472,072.71</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 479,256.54</u>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial reports

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The entity is not a reporting entity because, in the Management Committee's opinion, there is unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are dependent on general purpose financial reports for information. The financial report is therefore a special purpose financial report prepared so as to comply with the reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the entity in the preparation of the financial statements which, unless otherwise stated, have been consistently applied.

Income Tax

No income tax is payable as the association is an exempt organisation under Subdivision 50-A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 as amended.

Accounting Basis

An accruals basis of accounting is used whereby income is recorded when it is earned, and expenditure is recorded when it is incurred.

Non-Current Assets

Purchases of equipment are recorded as assets at their purchase cost. Equipment items are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Leave Entitlements

Employees' accrued entitlements to leave are not brought to account in the Balance Sheet as liabilities.

Accumulated Funds

In the event of the winding up of the Association, accumulated funds will not be distributed to members. The funds are to be distributed to another body incorporated with a similar constitution and objectives as that of the current Association.

Mortgages, Charges and Securities

At 30 April 2021 there were no mortgages, charges or securities affecting any of the property of the Association in terms of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

We the committee of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. state that in the opinion of the committee the accompanying financial report:

- 1) Presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. as at 30 April 2021 and the results of the Association for the year ended 30 April 2021.
- 2) Have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.



Signature

Position: Chair

Date: 2/7/2021



Signature

Position: CEO

Date: 2/7/2021



Ramsey & Associates

Auditors & Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2021, and the statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the Committee.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 April 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements listed in the Notes to the financial report.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to maintain an effective system of internal control over all income producing activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to income was limited to amounts recorded. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. to meet the requirements of its members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of the matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with its financial reporting requirements and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

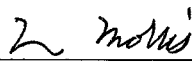
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ramsey & Associates
Auditors & Accountants
Ipswich & Boonah QLD



Neil Morris
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

Date: 10 June 2021



Australian Honey Bee INDUSTRY COUNCIL



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