



**Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

Annual Report

2019/20





The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) aims to maximise the efficient use of industry resources and funds to ensure the long-term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee industry in Australia.

We foster, promote, enhance and protect the interests of the Australian Honey Bee Industry and the vitality of its members and represent industry policy at all levels of government, private enterprise and the public.



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Chair report

Peter McDonald

2019-20 has been yet another busy year for the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and for the whole Honey Bee community in general. As I mentioned in last year's report, it is a very exciting time to be in Honey Bees. This past year has seen some excitement we would have rather avoided.

The Executive Committee since July 2019 has been:

- Peter McDonald, Chair
- Stephen Fewster, Deputy Chair
- Leilani Leyland
- Kevin MacGibbon (July 2018-Feb 2019)
- Peter Barnes
- Therese Kershaw
- Trevor Weatherhead (Mar 2019-present)
- Sarah Paradice, CEO (Jan 2019-Apr2020)
- Helen Goodall, CEO (Apr 2020-present)

In brief, the main events this past year have been:

- a. Ongoing drought conditions through much of the East Coast.
- b. Bushfires damaging large swathes of prime beekeeping country.



- c. A worldwide pandemic in COVID-19.
- d. A new CEO.
- e. Numerous exotic Biosecurity issues to manage.

As well as the issues outlined above, the AHBIC Executive has been very focussed on ensuring that the existing, continuing and on-going work that is currently in place continues to progress.

Some of this work is accomplished through partnering with our valued and Strategic partners.

- AgriFutures - has been a consistent partner to our industry for many years. It manages all the Honey Levy money collected for the purposes of research and administers and directs it for our industry. In addition to this it also assists with any other issue the Honey Bee industry faces. An example is the bushfires event and recovery efforts. AgriFutures contacted AHBIC and in discussions we developed the idea of a workshop to examine the actions needed to assist our industry cope with and recover from the devastating bushfires.
- Hive Aid - Around the same time, through discussions with Hive & Wellness, the idea of an aid program to directly assist beekeepers through the drought and bushfire impacts was established. Hive Aid was formed through this co-operation and Rural Aid was chosen as the professional aid provider. The program is endorsed by AHBIC because it is professionally run and satisfies an intense need for support for the beekeeping community. This program will continue while there is a need to support those beekeepers who

are in desperate need of help through drought and bushfire throughout Australia.

- Plant Health Australia (PHA) – PHA has continued the valuable work in ensuring the programs for biosecurity run for the Honey Bee industry continue to operate effectively and evolve. We now have Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO) in every state that is was planned for (VIC, TAS, SA, WA, Qld & NSW) to enable the beekeepers within those states to benefit from the support of the BBO in improving the biosecurity standards of all beekeepers throughout Australia. A review of the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) is currently underway and aims to improve the system so that it can continue to operate effectively as our industry continues to evolve.
- As well we have completed the incursion of *Varroa jacobsoni* into Townsville(2016) and continued the *V. jacobsoni* response, again in Townsville(2019). Recently in 2020 we have had yet another detection of *V. jacobsoni* in Townsville that is genetically separate from the previous 2 (2016 & 2019). This will also have to be managed through to conclusion.
- These are the main items, though much other work continues through other partners such as the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products (CRCHBP), B-Qual & State governments.

It is fantastic to see the growth in beekeeper numbers has also continued this past year, with total beekeepers registered this year going over 30,000 and those in the commercial side increasing to over 1,800. This shows the continued development of the industry as it continues to meet the demands of an increasing appetite for Australian Honey and a focus on the need for quality pollination



services to meet the ever increasing requirement for quality food that Australia is famous for. This increase in numbers of beekeepers bodes well for the future, especially as the impact of the ongoing drought and bushfires impact severely on those most affected. Some of these beekeepers are seriously considering leaving as a result of the impacts and so new beekeepers are always needed.

This coming year will see a focus on changes to our levy system as AHBIC seeks to change the levies that are collected to continue and expand the critical programs for our future. We must continue to research, maintain our biosecurity standards and protections & monitoring honey standards as well as introducing more promotion for the food and services we provide. This will involve a long consultation process with industry groups and individuals that will occur over the next year with questions put to you in 2021 about the direction this will take.

Honey Bees continue to be exciting, I love this industry and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead you this past 2 years. Let's all look forward to 2020/21 being a year of plenty in terms of excitement about the future, increased honey production, increased sales to match, quality food pollinated and the premium prices our various products deserve. Enthusiasm, cooperation and working together as a coordinated team will allow this all to happen.

Chief Executive Officer's report

Sarah Paradise and Helen Goodall

What a year for many of our beekeepers and one that will not be forgotten in an exceptionally long time. On the back of a debilitating drought, devastating fires tore through many parts of Australia destroying hives and resources. This was then followed by floods in some areas. The knock-on effects for the pollination season this Spring will be challenging and our industry's contribution to global food security can never be underestimated. Despite this, some parts of the country reported one of their best seasons for a long time.

Beekeepers have shown incredible resilience during these times and have banded together to overcome the adversities, yet recovery will take decades, particularly floral resources. States most affected saw their state associations immediately start on the recovery by lobbying state governments for support packages including short term assistance such as waiving site fees and sugar/pollen subsidies, in addition to longer term measures such as access to new areas of floral resources. AHBIC immediately started lobbying the Federal Government, attended roundtable discussions hosted by the then Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie and issued a media release highlighting the plight of the industry and the importance of recovery for food security. AHBIC collated fact sheets of losses that were used widely by industry as well as State and Federal politicians. Along with Agrifutures,



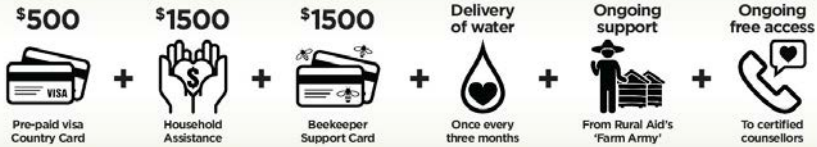
AHBIC also initiated a Bushfire Recovery Workshop. COVID-19 threw an additional spanner in the works and the workshop format was amended to overcome not being able to meet face to face, yet still achieve the objectives including mapping out what industry needs to recover, identifying where Government support is most needed and building resilience for future challenges. Thank you to consultant Michael Clarke of AgEconPlus for so successfully helping us navigate these uncharted waters. A report has been completed and will be released.



Overseen by AHBIC with significant support by Hive and Wellness, Hive Aid was also launched through Rural Aid, raising much needed funds for those beekeepers requiring immediate short-term relief. Relief provided came in the form of prepaid visa country cards to spend in a local rural community,

\$1,500 for bills, \$1500 beekeeper support cards to use on fuel and fodder for bees, water and access to counselling and Rural Aids "Farm Army". At the time of writing, the fund had collected nearly \$276,000 in donations and as at the last report from Rural Aid, \$318,055.00 had been distributed to beekeepers in need. More has been distributed to beekeepers in need than collected. Thank you also to Hive and Wellness for donating a portion of the proceeds from

AUSTRALIAN BEEKEEPERS IMPACTED BY DROUGHT & BUSHFIRE RURAL AID IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SUPPORT



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their “Capilano Honey’s Fans” Drought & Bushfire Relief honey pack to Hive Aid as well as \$50,000. AHBIC would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Olam who donated \$100,000 to the campaign. Relying on pollination services, Olam have recognised the importance of supporting the honey bee industry in its recovery and we sincerely thank Olam for their contribution.

During unprecedented COVID-19 times, AHBIC also worked on your behalf to lobby Government to ensure border closures did not affect beekeepers and to ensure beekeepers were considered alongside other agricultural industries as essential. State Associations also worked hard at a state level. As a result, beekeepers were able to continue doing business and were well informed about the different requirements of each state.

During the year, AHBIC also worked on your behalf in biosecurity, given the new detection of the Asian Honey Bee (AHB) in the Port of Townsville. The AHB nest was located and destroyed on 16 May 2019 and was found as a result of bee lining activities where foraging bees were being tracked. Mites were found and identified to species level by CSIRO’s



laboratory in Canberra as *Varroa jacobsoni*. AHBIC worked closely with the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) and Queensland Biosecurity to ensure best possible outcomes and efficient and accurate industry communications. I would like to thank QBA and Queensland Biosecurity for their work, support and professionalism.

In terms of biosecurity and as you will be aware, a number of programs have been developed to help protect Australia's honey bees from exotic pests, and to preserve the pollination benefits they bring to many crops; one such program is the [National Bee Biosecurity Program](#). The aim of the National Bee Biosecurity Program is to help beekeepers manage pests that are already in Australia, and to prepare for incursions by exotic pests. Despite being overshadowed by drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19 during the year, AHBIC also worked closely with Plant Health Australia on a review of this program with input from key groups such as the Bee Biosecurity Officers. Thank you to all those who provided input and everyone at Plant Health Australia including Rod Turner and Kath DeBoer for their assistance in facilitating this review.

Due to personal circumstances, I have unfortunately moved on as CEO of AHBIC, but this has made way for capable Helen Goodall whose business development and other skills will bode very well for AHBIC's future.

It has been a challenging year beyond belief for many of you and I wish you all the absolute best in the future.

CEO Introduction by Helen Goodall

I commenced with AHBIC on the 6 April 2020, with only three weeks left of the AHBIC financial year and just as COVID-19 took hold on the nation. Thank you to Sarah Paradice for providing a comprehensive handover and being available for support. You have delivered a great start for me to continue to build upon the work of AHBIC.

In my first few weeks of commencing, I was asked who is Helen Goodall and what makes you capable of undertaking the role? So let me introduce myself. I have worked as an executive in the not for profit sector for more than 12 years, working for national membership bodies similar to AHBIC, however on a larger scale. My experience also includes working in the commercial sector and many years ago I worked for Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) now known as AgriFutures. My teenage years were spent living in Sutton NSW, with my parents originally being from the Bungonia and Leeton NSW regions. I now live in Canberra with my own family, which is where I am based to undertake the work for AHBIC. I am not a beekeeper, although I respect the work of beekeepers and have an appreciation of the importance of the industry. The AHBIC executive, who volunteer many hours of their time and energy, provide the necessary support with industry knowledge.

With my background and a Master's degree focused in Business from the University of NSW, the bottom line is always at the forefront of what I do. Are we delivering on our purpose and financial goals? An ongoing challenge for many not for profit organisations is having adequate resources, both financial and human. Diversifying our funding to deliver for the industry will be an area of my focus. This will include directing my attention on the Friends of AHBIC model, which is designed to attract a broader base of contributors in addition to beekeepers.

I look forward to the year ahead and what can be achieved for AHBIC, the members and the industry.



About AHBIC

Organisation

Our organisation's main role is to protect and promote the Australian honey bee industry. Our members are made up of representatives of various sections of the bee keeping industry in Australia.

AHBIC is made up of six State Associations and three National Associations, each representing various sections of the beekeeping industry in Australia:

- NSW Apiarists' Association
- Queensland Beekeepers' Association
- Victorian Apiarists' Association
- South Australian Apiarists' Association
- Western Australian Farmers – Beekeepers Section
- Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association
- Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association
- National Council of Pollination Associations
- Honey Packers and Marketeers Association of Australia Inc.

Constitution

The AHBIC mission is:

'To maximize the efficient use of industry resources and funds to ensure the long term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee Industry in Australia.'

To achieve this mission we:

- foster, promote, enhance and protect the interests of the Industry;
- represent industry policy at all levels of government, private enterprise and the public;
- promote, support, seek amendments to, or oppose any legislation or measure that may affect the industry; and
- conduct educational, promotional and public relations campaigns.

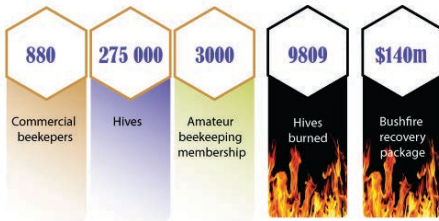
Our constitution is available online at: <https://honeybee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Constitution-Australian-Honey-Bee-Industry-Council-AHBIC-Endorsed-29-June-2019.pdf>





State Association and Member Reports

NSW



NSW beekeepers experienced a challenging season. NSW has close to 880 commercial beekeepers managing 275,000 hives. The recent drought conditions continued and then in late October 2019 we experienced the start of the horrific bushfires. Major bushfires hit northern NSW, then in December the Batemans Bay area and followed by Tumbarumba area of NSW in January 2020. Over 5 million Ha were burnt. Most of the burnt areas were on public lands such as State Forests and National Parks.

Many beekeepers moved their bees multiple times to avoid the fires. Over 9,809 hives were burnt and 88,094 hives lost their field bees. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) did an amazing job providing sugar and later

sugar syrup for bushfire affected beehives to keep the bees alive immediately after the fires. Most of the NSW State Forest areas that were burnt were highly productive apiary areas. After the fires some beekeepers travelled to Victoria to find conditions for their hives.

As a result of the bushfires and the drought, honey production in NSW was well below average. NSW honey production will be at least 30% below the long term average for probably 10 years. Some of these burnt areas will not recover for up to 20 years.

Beehives have been killed by chemical sprays as has been the case most years. Recently a couple of thousand hives were lost due to flooding in central west NSW. A heartbreak for the beekeepers who managed the drought and then avoided the bushfires. No insurance for flooding of beehives.

The NSW State government has been supportive of our industry. A \$140 million bushfire recovery package was announced to be split between forestry, apiary, and horticulture. Some of the funding

will go direct to beekeepers and some will be available for industry. NSW beekeepers have enjoyed public land bee site fee waivers and free heavy vehicle registrations due to the drought. The government is still supporting the single desk policy to simplify access to public land bee sites. The single desk platform is close to maturity and looks very promising.

TOCAL College has provided great support with training for our industry. Unfortunately, the queen breeding research project is progressing slowly. The project now has hives and a vehicle. The Bee Biosecurity Officers have been busy and doing a sterling job. NSW DPI released a new book Honey and Pollen Flora of South Eastern Australia written by Dr Doug Somerville. An asset for any bee business. Two notable retirements from NSW DPI are Dr Doug Sommerville and Mick Rankmore who were great advocates for our industry.

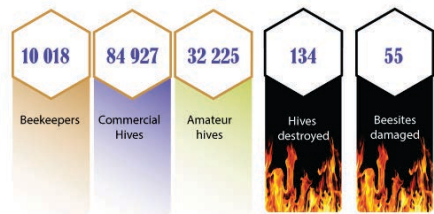
The Amateur Beekeeping Association is continuing to grow and has increased their membership base to over 3000 and has also increased their branch network. Training and increasing

the knowledge of recreational beekeepers is still the priority.

The NSW AGM/Conference has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Fair Trading has given NSWAA permission to not hold an AGM in 2020. The current plan is to hold our 2021 AGM/Conference in Tamworth. Unfortunately, many NSW commercial beekeepers choose not to join our Association. NSWAA has a good executive who look forward to the challenges of the season ahead and working with AHBIC.

Stephen Targett
NSWAA President

Victoria



This year has been one out of the box. Fires, drought and a pandemic has made it an unforgettable year for all Australians.



Industry Wrap-up

Beekeepers in Victoria have had a strong honey-producing season, with several reporting some of the best conditions in decades. The end of the season brought good flowering from Grey box and Messmate and for many that will mean a strong start for next season. The current consensus is that next season could be another strong one for honey production.

A number of NSW and Queensland beekeepers remained in Victoria after pollination to avoid the problematic conditions in their home states. Current weather patterns in Victoria may encourage strong spring growth, with early indicators of a significant strengthening in the price for pollination services.

COVID-19

The Coronavirus Pandemic has had a significant effect on the operation of the VAA. Our two primary fundraising activities, The Royal Melbourne Show and our annual conference, have been cancelled. This puts considerable strain on the Association's finances. We have temporarily moved to electronic production of the Bee Journal to

reduce costs and continue moving forward.

VAA Subcommittees

Understandably, our subcommittees have been less active over the last few months. However, we are making progress in the following areas:

Improvements to the Bee Journal in electronic format

- Discussions with government about supporting traineeships and formal education for professional beekeeping
- Refining the VAA's industry insurance package, available to all affiliated clubs and VAA members
- Establishing strategic alliances outside our industry, such as between the VAA, Rotary and the When Bee Foundation
- Achieving uninterrupted and unrestricted access to forests for bees, for year-round foraging
- Working with Owen Bassett, our forestry consultant, on a forest restoration prescription for Box-Ironbark forests (Resources Subcommittee)

- Ongoing contributions from the VAA to the Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee.

The future

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the VAA needs to employ additional people to help achieve its goals.

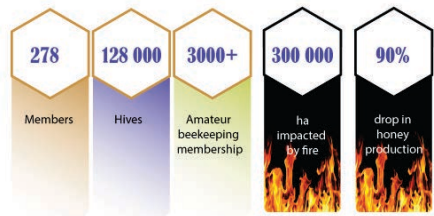
We are very lucky to have some extraordinary people who volunteer their time to advance the interests of beekeeping in Victoria. What we achieve for the industry given the constraints is exceptional. However, this model is uncertain and difficult to manage.

It would be a great improvement to efficiency, and to making the most of volunteer efforts, if we had a dedicated, paid role that supports volunteers. This would enable projects to move forward in a timely manner and would see the VAA achieve much more for beekeepers. Funding for such a support role is therefore a high priority in the near future.

For the love of bees

Aris Petratos
VAA President

Queensland



The 2019-20 period has been a year in which beekeepers across Queensland have faced unique challenges, from drought to subsequent bushfires and the rapidly changing restrictions due to the introduction of the COVID-19 into Queensland. Whilst the nature of our environment has thrown out some unpredictable scenarios our beekeepers have remained stoic and met the multitude of challenges head on.

Much of Queensland has remained in drought throughout the 2019-2020 year. It is estimated that around 67% of the State has battled the prolonged dry for a period of more than 2 years now. Bushfires that impacted close to 23% of our states National Park Apiary sites and approximately 176 sites managed by Queensland Forestry were impacted by fire. The Queensland Department of



Environment and Science has estimated that around 300,000ha of forest resource traditionally accessed by the beekeeping industry was impacted by fires during the peak of the 2019-2020 fire season.

The prolonged drought, coupled with the recent bushfires have taken a devastating toll on the industry. It is estimated that honey production is down by around 90% across the state and there are now genuine concerns for the health of the industry in Queensland.

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA) played an instrumental role in the co-ordination of an industry specific program, funded by the Queensland State Government which delivered an unprecedented \$1 million support package to the industry. The package had two key elements, the first was a financial waiver across all Crown Land Apiary sites under permit, seeing much needed financial support returned via refund back to our Beekeepers. The second component was the allocation of \$350,000 towards the purchase of a 'stockpile' of sugar to provide emergency fodder



support to starving honey bee colonies across the state. The announcement was well received by the industry and allocations for sugar were quickly taken up by the professional beekeeping sector in Queensland. Sadly, funds allocated for the purchase of sugar were quickly exhausted leaving the QBA in a position to engage the Queensland Department of Agriculture in discussions seeking an additional funding support for the industry.

Continuation of access to apiary sites within Queensland National Park estate remains a top priority for the QBA, while we've made more progress in the past twelve months than the last decade, a breakthrough in the matter will still be some time yet. QBA continues

to advance its lobbying efforts with the Queensland Department of Environment, with a goal to repeal the legislated lockout to all Queensland National Park Apiary sites on the 31st of December 2024.

Whilst participating in a key planning meeting with the Queensland Department of Environment in August 2019, the QBA were advised of Native Title issues implicating the future issue of permits to around 93% of the states National Park Apiary sites. It appears that the Department had misinterpreted the Native Title Act and how beekeeping was applied within the act. The revision of the Departments requirements to address Native Title within protected areas had now limited the Departments ability to continue

to provide long term apiary site permits where Native Title determinations had been declared or where Native Title Consent to Determination was imminent. We were advised that until formal agreements were reached with individual Traditional Owner groups the purpose of beekeeping could not be validated under the Native Title act. The Department of Environment has recognised that any restrictions placed on the permitting of Apiary sites within protected area estate due to Native Title matters to access to protected areas would have devastating implications to the beekeeping industry as a whole and our ability to sustain the health of the industry and our ability to provide managed honey bees for pollination services to horticulture.



QBA has engaged a well-known law firm to represent the industry in negotiations with the Department and Traditional Owner groups. We are hopeful that the beekeeping industry can be included within the State's negotiations with specific groups however, we are well aware this matter is unable to be resolved without significant financial strain to our organisation.



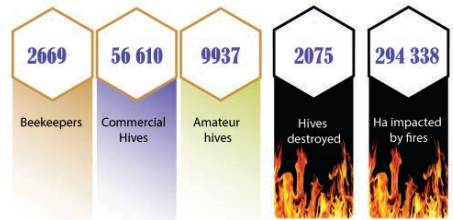
In May 2019, QBA held its 115th Annual General Meeting and State Conference. We encountered a remarkable demand for tickets to the event, thus increasing our need to find larger venues to host our Annual events in the future. Rolling changes to restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately saw the cancellation to the 2020 QBA State Conference. The Management Committee of the QBA will continue to review announcements from the State and Federal Governments relating to the easing of social distancing restrictions and hope to schedule the 116th AGM of the QBA in the very near future.

Beekeeping registrations have continued to increase across the state with more than 6290 beekeepers currently registered in Queensland caring for more than 128,000 hives. Information collected from the Queensland Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries indicates that around 79,000 hives are registered to Professional Beekeepers with around 49,000 hives registered to hobby/amateur beekeepers and small-scale beekeeping operations.

The QBA currently has 278 members, representing approximately three quarters of the commercial beekeeping sector within the state. QBA is affiliated with 10 amateur beekeeping organisations across the state, encompassing a membership of more than 3,000 beekeepers across the state.

Jo Martin
QBA State Secretary

South Australia



This season has been a real mixed bag. There are reports of some good yields around the state but also record low production for others. Some beekeepers have now suffered through two poor production years and are feeling the pinch. To top this off we have also had bushfires in the Adelaide Hills, South East and Kangaroo

Island (KI) destroying around 2000 hives and many more heat affected.

To help the members the executive organised a nucleus hive replacement program that saw members donate nearly 200 nucleus hives. This was a fantastic result and showed just how generous people can be when others are doing it tough. Unfortunately we couldn't do the same for our friends on KI due to biosecurity rules, so we started a fundraising campaign that raised in excess of \$75,000. This money is flowing directly to the KI beekeepers to help with their recovery. My thoughts go out to all those that have experienced hard times of late and hope we all turn the corner soon and have a good season in 20/21.

The executive have been working hard this year on public land access and have had some fantastic results. We have worked closely with Forestry SA, SA Water and Department of Environment and Water (DEW). We have been successful in establishing a pilot program for Forestry SA land. An independent ballot process was used to allocate the initial release

of sites. I hope those lucky few have great results on these sites.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity Forestry SA has given our industry and look forward to more sites being established in the future. This is a massive step forward for our industry and will hopefully be the beginning of a stronger relationship with Forestry SA, SA Water and DEW.

I was surprised however to hear the lack of applicants for these sites. We keep hearing that land access is the biggest issue for beekeepers and we have worked tirelessly to get all partners around the table to discuss how all the industries can work together. But it makes it hard to show the need of our industry when we have so few applicants. So next time we have sites released, please take the time to apply for them. If we get to a point where we have continual low applicant numbers it makes it almost impossible to justify to government the need for more access.

The SAAA has also been instrumental in working to review the DEW honeybee policy. We have been working to create a



new frame work for assessing the suitability of bees on DEW land. DEW have committed to this process and will have the draft policy out for consultation soon. As part of the review DEW are developing a new online platform for site registration and allocation.

At the last AGM we were lucky enough to have Katrina Hudson step into the role of secretary. Unfortunately her work commitments increased to the point where she could no longer do both. We were sad to see her go as she was extremely efficient and managed the job well. Thankfully the executive shared the work load whilst we went through the recruitment process or a new secretary. After advertising, we were fortunate enough to have Jenny McCormick step into the role. Jenny has experience in many areas and has some very exciting ideas for the association. She has been an integral part of the online conference/conversation series that will be running over the next few months.

At this year's AGM we will be saying our goodbyes to two executive members that have chosen to step

down. Anthony Hudson and Ben Hooper. Anthony was our tech guru that helped us into the modern era with our new website. His hard work and endless hours of coding have really paid off with a well set up website. He also was chief editor of the Buzz this year and put a huge effort into transforming the newsletter. His contribution to the association has been exceptional and greatly appreciated.

Ben Hooper has been on the executive committee for numerous years including serving five years as your President. He was instrumental in developing and implementing the Code of Practice and helped our industry transition after the abolishment of the state advisory group. Ben has been the state delegate to AHBC for many years representing us on the national level, represented the SAAA on all the state committee's and working groups and leaves a big hole on our executive. He is a hard worker and stands up for what he believes in. Both of you will be sorely missed on the committee.

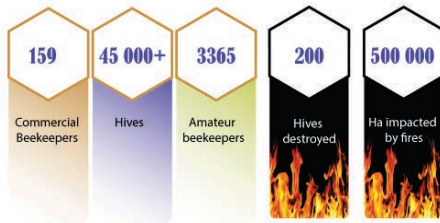
This has left quite a few seats on the executive unoccupied. We also have Les Crane and Aiden Ferris

up for re election, both of whom will stand again. We need new executive members, fresh faces and new ideas and new energy to help us into the future. If you've been thinking about getting involved please nominate yourself or if you know someone that would be good, encourage them to nominate. Many hands make light work.

I wish you all the best for the coming season. See you at the AGM.

Josh Kennett
SAAA President

Western Australia



WAfarmers continues its work with the other state peak bodies in building the capacity of the united state representative organisation the Bee Industries Council of WA BICWA.

As BICWA grows it is slowly taking over coordinating some of the state and federal responsibilities that WAFarmers beekeepers Council have had including representing the commercial industry to government.

It is I envisioned that in the near future BICWA will take over membership of AHBIC.

Mapping

Currently the states beekeepers have access to approximately 4000 Apiary sites across the State and beekeepers have to rely on a mapping service provided by the department of Biodiversity and Conservation.

The current mapping and site allocation system is struggling to cope with the demand, and while the government has been working on updates the industry is now looking for a complete overhaul of the platform to address the complexity of issues associated with land and resource management.

One of the key challenges is to ensure beekeepers have access to unburned sites but the current mapping system is not linked to the Department responsible for



prescribed burns nor is it linked to a system that would normally sit with the Department of Agriculture and Food to allow site access trading.

WAFarmers Beekeepers will be prioritising a new mapping trading platform with the government in the lead up to the state election due in April 2021.

Prescribed Burns

The WA industry is still struggling to convince government to change its approach to formula prescribed burns which is having a devastating impact on our native flora.

WAFarmers Beekeepers Council along with BICWA has remained a strong advocate for best maintenance practice and protection of forest and bush.

Throughout the year, several meetings with DBCA, DFES and DWER authorities were held to discuss issues such as the Burning Quota, different burning and maintenance practices, simplifying of application processes and access for Beekeepers to online portals and historical burn data.

A new policy developed in conjunction with Curtin University

and local indigenous landowners is hopefully going to change the governments thinking on this issue.

Rebate

Another related matter WAFarmers Beekeepers Council has been pursuing is a rebate on fees related to prescribed burns. As an industry reliant on native flowering plants, when prescribed burns are notified sometimes these are planned for when a flowering period is imminent, despite communications there is often no room for rescheduling.

The industry is seeking a mechanism for a fee waiver, this should in turn be linked to the proposed detailed mapping and licensing management platform.

Research Projects

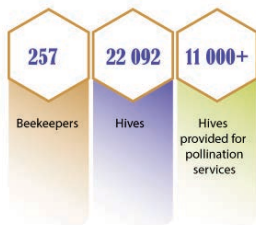
The end of the financial year marked the end of a joint project with the WA Chem Centre of a \$1.1m research project to establish a new, internationally recognised certification process for WA's unique monofloral honeys.

The consortium is now looking for other research project to extend the collaboration with a

focus on pollination and boosting ecosystem services in Avocado and Sandalwood farms.

Stephen Fewster
President

Tasmania



Tasmania's Remarkable Recovery

This has been a very good year for our beekeeping industry in Tasmania. We actually recovered from the severe drought and bush fires in 2019 and produced a 90% season of approximately 900 tonnes of honey for this year.

The Agriculture Minister Hon Guy Barnett and the Tasmanian Government helped our beekeepers in many ways including-

- giving our beekeepers free access to sites for one year,
- helping us pay for the CRC into research of Leatherwood
- helping beekeepers purchase extra food to feed their bees (certain criteria applied)
- providing a Project Officer to help beekeepers continue to gain access to sites and to identify more sites so beekeepers can expand their numbers to keep pace with the pollination expansion that is factored to grow.

This is the eighth year that packaged bees were sent to Canada. But sadly only two pallets went from Tasmania. The Covid 19 crisis and airline grounding was the weak link.

During the year the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA) finally negotiated the planning guideline for apiary values in the definition of commercial leatherwood. TBA signed the memorandum of understanding to this section of the guidelines with Australia's peak body AHBIC and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania (STT) on the 16th October 2019.

STT and TBA are eager to continue in harmony, however, the 3rd coupe harvested may have some teething problems.



TBA has commenced a report which is now in hand. This report has been sent to the manager in STT. Both parties would like to resolve any matters that come out of discussions so that mistakes will not be repeated.

Pollination is the word that is used constantly because without our Leatherwood harvest there would be a lot less pollination hives for the needs of the pollination dependent industries. Our industry struggled to supply the numbers that were required to satisfy growing seed companies. We the beekeepers of Tasmania, Australia and the world are struggling to maintain beehive numbers. As mankind is multiplying in such alarming numbers, we the bee farmers are struggling to expand our numbers and if we cannot manage to do this then there will be a lot less food produced.

*Lindsay Bourke
TBA President*

HPMAA



The past year has seen packers and beekeepers alike consumed by the adverse effects of prolonged drought and the devastating fires of summer 2019/20. The year has been made even more interesting with the addition of the COVID19 virus and the impacts that has had on society, community, economies, and business. Ensuring the packers of Australia can meet a changed pandemic demand has been a new priority, considering the low honey production this season.

Reduced honey production stemming from the persistence of drought, exasperated by bushfires, has raised honey prices to record levels. This has led to the need to re-set wholesale prices for honey

Honey Imports (kg) Over Time (2017 – 2020):



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

as input costs rise, leading to higher consumer retail prices. Most of the honey in Australia is sold through a concentrated group of supermarket chains, who have been supportive of the plight of Australian beekeepers and the rationale behind heightened beekeeper honey prices. The packers and marketers of the HPMAA have worked hard to ensure our beekeepers get the best return for their tireless efforts.

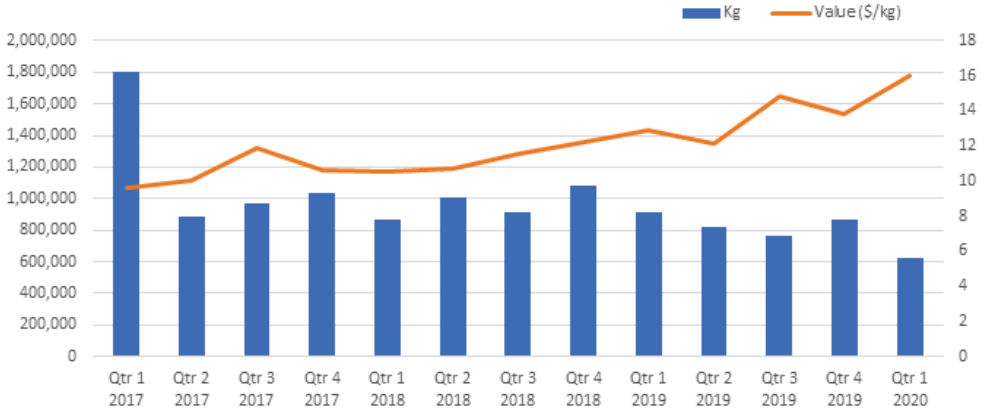
In times of reduced Australian honey production, we commonly see imports rise, which is evident in the data from the December 2019 and March 2020 quarter. Whilst imports have risen, they remain lower than in 2017 and 2018. Honeys from Asia, New Zealand and South America remain the

dominant origins of imports, as has historically been the case.

New Zealand honey imported into Australia ranges in cost from \$30-\$45/kg and this is principally imported in Manuka retail honey packs, which has averaged approximately 100t a month over the last three years.

The following table summarises the average Australian imported honey costs over time (\$/kg):

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Europe | \$9.73 | \$10.14 | \$11.06 |
| Sth America | \$4.34 | \$4.00 | \$3.65 |
| Asia | \$2.46 | \$2.41 | \$2.89 |
| India | \$4.53 | \$4.92 | \$3.39 |
| NZ | \$36.60 | \$38.90 | \$36.70 |
| USA, Mexico, Other | \$7.26 | \$9.15 | \$9.42 |



Honey exports (Kg) over time (2017 - 2020)

Export volumes of Australian honey have been in decline since the end of 2018, and more notably at the beginning of 2020. The rise in export value (\$/kg) has tracked in line with rising beekeeper honey prices, making Australian honey one of the highest priced premium table honeys in the world, being somewhat uncompetitive as a bulk industrial commodity.

The impacts of the COVID19 virus on consumer habits is seeing a recent increase in honey sales as consumers seek long-life natural products and bake at home more. As a consequence, the Australian retail supermarket and pharmacy segment is in growth at a total market size of greater than \$153m year to date (Source: Aztec Data

to YTD 26/04/20). In the last year we have seen a notable increase in private label sales domestically, with an increase in value of over 40% compared to last year.

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. The efforts of the New Zealand honey industry present a threat to the marketability and value of Australian premium honey exports.

Whilst much work has been put into the strategic plan of AHBIC, the on-going funding model needs to be reconsidered and we look forward to furthering interactions with AHBIC on this topic. It is clear, that AHBIC relies heavily on the financial support of only a minority of industry participants, which is limiting their capability and capacity.

With the consultation and support of the HPMAA members, the focus for 2020 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.
- Providing guidance and consensus on appropriate internationally recognised best practice adulteration testing regimes that are robust, repeatable and commercially viable for industry to use.
- Lobbying and providing submissions to governments for the establishment of harmonised maximum residue limits (MRLs)

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, regardless of whether the product is at a beekeeper's farm gate, farmers market, fruit shop or on a supermarket shelf here or abroad.
- Assisting beekeepers with drought and bushfire recovery.

Most of all, we are hoping for winter rains that delivers beekeepers a better honey season and higher production.

Ben McKee
President



Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association



The management committee of the AQBBA consisted of Chris Kassebaum as President, Corinne Jordan as Vice President, Jody Gerdts as Secretary, David Briggs as Treasurer, and John Covey and Richard Simms serving as a non-office bearing members.

In 2019-2020 AQBBA management committee focused work on two main projects: Continuing work with Australia Post to endure the safe delivery of queens and continued work on biosecure pathways for the importation of honey bee germplasm into Australia. AQBBA also adopted

a national queen bee marking standard.

Australia Post

The new Australia Post Dangerous Goods and Packaging Guidelines (DGPG) was updated in January 2020 to reflect changes suggested by the AQBBA. Importantly, interstate movement of bee requirements are now in line with state biosecurity legislation. Packaging guidelines are now in line with industry best practice and a provision for shipping live bulk bees has been included.

This is a major success, but now we are working with Kylie Pitt to address the continued mishandling and re-directing of bees while in transport which has led to significant losses for some queen producers. In the coming year the AQBBA will develop best practice packaging guidelines and associated educational materials for industry beekeepers sending queens and bees through Australia Post and continue to work with Aust post on improving tracking and scanning of these parcels. Complete information can be found in section D10.1 of the Dangerous and



Prohibitive Goods and Packaging Guidelines below:



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 ran a successful domestic trial at the Mickleham Post Entry Quarantine Facility along with the DAWR staff in October of 2019, with advise from Bruce White. This activity troubleshooted problems encountered with the process of importing queens and helped create protocol and guidelines to

inform future live imports. Live queens from Europe are scheduled to enter the quarantine facility in spring of 2020 as part of a joint AQBBA and CSIRO project funded by Hort Inovation. Additionally, after much negotiation of specific wording on international health certificates, the first semen importation is due August 2020. The imported stock will be released to industry though the AQBBA after an 8-12 month assessment period.

National Queen Bee Marking Scheme

AQBBA has adopted using the spring colour for Marking queens to align with the financial year.

Please notify members about this important adoption to promote consistency across the industry.

Next spring we will be marking queens blue.

| Spring ending in ... | Queen marking colour | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 0,5 | Blue | |
| 1,6 | White | |
| 2,7 | Yellow | |
| 3,8 | Red | |
| 4,9 | Green | |

Other reports

B-QUAL

Like all sections of the industry B-QUAL and members have faced a number of challenges during the past year, with some members being affected by drought, fires, floods and Covid-19 pressures.

The Board has pursued a number of initiatives and can report good progress over the last year.

A number of teleconferences and close co-operation with our program managers has resulted in the essentials and day to day operations being progressed in a timely manner. Such undertakings as amendments to the program standards with Biosecurity additions to satisfy all the states requirements and the National Code of Practice, having all auditors complete the on line





BOLT course; finalising 3rd party audit accreditation in NSW and SA and commencing discussions with Victoria for accreditation have been some of the achievements this year. It has been satisfying to see the development of the closer relationships between B-QUAL and our program managers, with the various Government apiary and biosecurity officers which is good for the industry in general.

During the year we have become accepted as a partner of CRCHBP and progressed the digitisation program to the stage where a contract has been let for the software development and full in field testing is scheduled for late 2020 with a release planned for February 2021. This will have the benefit to our members and industry in general of a QA and Food handling program and data capture as amongst world's best, and making it easier for members to record hive data on site.

Our quarterly newsletter continues to contain updates and progress on various undertakings of B-QUAL to our members and we thank those State Associations who post or provide links on their websites.

The financial strength of B-QUAL continues to consolidate with the assistance of prudent management and financial support from Steritech, CMV Group and Hive & Wellness; we offer our sincerest thanks to our sponsors for their interest and support of our objectives.

Lastly I would thank our board members, and program managers for their efforts in continuing the successful growth of B-QUAL.

*Wayne Fuller
Chairman B-QUAL*





Annual Financial Report

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

ABN 63 939 614 424

Audited Financial Report

for the year ended

30 April 2020

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General Account:

- ❖ Statement of Income and Expenditure
- ❖ Balance Sheet

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- ❖ 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 2020**

| 2019 | | 2020 |
|--------------|---|----------------|
| | <u>INCOME</u> | |
| 145,680.18 | Voluntary Contributions | 146,329.45 |
| 600.00 | Annual Meeting Registration | - |
| 3,169.70 | Interest Received | 3,561.13 |
| 2,454.57 | Membership Dues | 1,636.38 |
| 21,645.46 | Plant Health Australia reimbursements for Biosecurity work | - |
| 13,031.54 | Strategic Planning Consultations | - |
| - | ATO - Cash Flow Boost | 21,948.00 |
| 9,259.82 | Training Services | - |
| 166.51 | Other Income | - |
| 52,991.49 | Funds from closure of 3rd Australian Bee Congress | - |
| 50,000.00 | Grant Received | 47,036.00 |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| 298,999.27 | TOTAL INCOME | 220,510.96 |
| | <u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u> | |
| 283.50 | Advertising & Media Costs | 567.00 |
| 2,413.64 | Annual Meeting Costs | 3,085.86 |
| 1,980.00 | Audit Fees | 1,900.00 |
| - | Apimondia Membership | 709.74 |
| 251.57 | Bank & Eway Charges | 378.67 |
| 272.73 | Bookkeeping Fees | 2,581.03 |
| 9,259.81 | Congress Costs | - |
| 1,501.53 | Insurance | 1,477.74 |
| 6,490.00 | Legal Fees | - |
| 4,662.25 | Office Supplies, IT Equipment | 1,310.17 |
| 1,185.19 | Postage | 440.00 |
| 995.57 | Printing and Stationery | 129.92 |
| 621.24 | Removal Costs | - |
| 18,750.00 | Remuneration - Chairman | 15,000.00 |
| 89,110.17 | Remuneration - Executive Director/CEO | 165,529.52 |
| 535.35 | Strategic Planning Costs | - |
| 772.73 | Subscriptions/Memberships | 693.32 |
| 105.23 | Sundry Expenses | - |
| 3,152.46 | Meeting Expenses | 3,214.49 |
| 3,218.14 | Telephone & Internet Costs | 1,433.30 |
| 19,955.48 | Travel Costs | 25,522.19 |
| 570.77 | Trophy Expenses | 240.18 |
| 1,015.09 | WorkCover Insurance | 601.88 |
| 2,173.48 | Website Development & Maintenance | 968.18 |
| 54,000.00 | Grant Expenditure | 36,701.83 |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| 223,275.93 | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 262,485.02 |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| \$ 75,723.34 | EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | \$ (41,974.06) |



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2020**

| 2019 | | 2020 |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| | <u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u> | |
| 223,885.48 | Opening Balance 01/05/2019 | 299,608.82 |
| <u>75,723.34</u> | Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure | <u>(41,974.06)</u> |
| <u>\$ 299,608.82</u> | Closing Balance 30/04/2020 | <u>\$ 257,634.76</u> |
| | Represented by: | |
| | <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | |
| | Cash at Bank | |
| 138,136.66 | Bendigo Bank Statement Account | 87,170.75 |
| 6,000.00 | Bendigo Bank General Working Account | 729.60 |
| 56,520.34 | Bendigo Bank Term Deposit | 57,545.54 |
| 33,573.02 | Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2 | 34,361.37 |
| 80,833.10 | Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3 | 82,299.31 |
| <u>315,063.12</u> | | <u>262,106.57</u> |
| | Other Assets | |
| 300.00 | Sundry Debtors | - |
| <u>315,363.12</u> | | <u>262,106.57</u> |
| | <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | |
| 29,725.00 | Furniture and Fixtures at Cost | 29,725.00 |
| <u>(29,725.00)</u> | Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(29,725.00)</u> |
| <u>-</u> | | <u>-</u> |
| <u>315,363.12</u> | <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u> | <u>262,106.57</u> |
| | <u>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> | |
| 3,315.98 | Net GST Payable to ATO | (171.82) |
| 11,504.00 | PAYG Withheld Payable to ATO | 1,372.00 |
| 934.32 | Superannuation Payable | 1,916.63 |
| - | Other Payables | 1,355.00 |
| <u>15,754.30</u> | | <u>4,471.81</u> |
| <u>\$ 299,608.82</u> | <u>NET ASSETS</u> | <u>\$ 257,634.76</u> |

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2020

| 2019 | | 2020 |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| | <u>INCOME</u> | |
| 8,454.95 | Interest Received | 3,951.77 |
| 8,454.95 | <i>TOTAL INCOME</i> | 3,951.77 |
| - | <u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u> | - |
| <u>\$ 8,454.95</u> | <u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u> | <u>\$ 3,951.77</u> |

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 2020

| 2019 | | 2020 |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| | <u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u> | |
| 459,665.99 | Opening Balance 01/05/2019 | 468,120.94 |
| <u>8,454.95</u> | Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure | <u>3,951.77</u> |
| <u>\$ 468,120.94</u> | Closing Balance 30/04/2020 | <u>\$ 472,072.71</u> |
| | Represented by: | |
| | <u>ASSETS</u> | |
| 44.88 | Cash at Bank | 44.97 |
| 418,076.06 | Bendigo Bank Working Account | 422,027.74 |
| <u>418,120.94</u> | Bendigo Bank Term Deposit | <u>422,072.71</u> |
| 5,000.00 | Loan to Australian Manuka Honey Association | 50,000.00 |
| 423,120.94 | <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u> | 472,072.71 |
| - | <u>Less: LIABILITIES</u> | - |
| <u>\$ 423,120.94</u> | <u>NET ASSETS</u> | <u>\$ 472,072.71</u> |

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2020****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.

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 2020 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.



ATTACHMENT 4

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2020**

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 2020 and the results of the Association for the year ended 30 April 2020.
- 2) Have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Goodale', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Position: CEO

Date: 21 June 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McDell', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Position: Chair

Date: 22 June 2020



Ramsey & Associates

Auditors & Accountants

A.B.N. 64 882 623 520

Head Office:
70 East Street
Ipswich Qld 4305

PO Box 148 Ipswich

Phone: (07) 3281 1755
Fax: (07) 3281 4017

Boonah:
Lankowski Building
2 / 43 High Street
Boonah Qld 4310

PO Box 139 Boonah

Phone: (07) 5463 2199
Fax: (07) 5463 2068

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Professional Standards Legislation*

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 2020, 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 2020 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: 4 June 2020



**Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

Helen Goodall
0402 467 780 or
ahbic@honeybee.org.au

www.honeybee.org.au/

