



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

ABN 63 939 614 424

PO Box 42, Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

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Ph: 0402 467 780

www.honeybee.org.au

Monthly News May/June 2020

*Enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about our work on behalf of your honey bee industry?
If you haven't already become a Friend of AHBIC, we welcome you coming on board to help us!*

CONTRIBUTE HERE

Or use the form on page 2

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry with a voluntary contribution

CONTENTS

Page 4	Note from Chair Peter McDonald
Page 5	AHBIC AGM and Executive Positions
Page 6	Note from CEO Helen Goodall
Page 7	Agrifutures Australia Honey Bee And Pollination Program Advisory Panel
Page 7	Hive Aid Report
Page 8	State Association Updates
Page 9	ExtensionAUS
Page 9	General News and Links – Australia
Page 10	Media Releases
Page 10	General News and Links – International
Page 11	B-QUAL

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Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Please, help us help you and our industry!

Please complete this form and return by email to finance@honeybee.org.au or PO Box 42 Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

Friend Category	Investment	Friend Category	Investment
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Gold Plus	\$5,000 - \$19,999	Copper	\$100 - \$499
Gold	\$2,000 - \$4,999	Other	\$0 - \$99

Contribution Details

Name:

Address:

.....State.....Postcode.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: Date:

Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

1. EFT Deposit (preferred payment method)
Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 150 976 405
Reference: Please include your NAME as the reference
2. CHEQUE: Please post cheque with this form to PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614
3. CREDIT CARD: Online at <https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

Please circle YES/NO:

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 - i. **disclosed** monetary category or YES / NO
 - ii. **undisclosed** monetary category or YES / NO
 - iii. do **not** publish my name YES / NO
2. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a Tax Receipt (email only) YES / NO

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you.

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The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is the peak industry body for the Australian beekeeping industry working for all within our industry including honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers

The following list recognises contributions received for the last 12 months. A number of generous contributors wish to remain anonymous. We encourage beekeepers to support those packers, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.

Thank you to all our contributors & supporters. AHBIC appreciates your generous & ongoing support.

Friends of AHBIC – Voluntary Contributions

PLATINUM PLUS (0)

PLATINUM (2)

Hive & Wellness Australia Pty Ltd
Beechworth Honey Enterprises P/L

GOLD PLUS (5)

Australian Honey Products P/L
Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Goldfield Honey Australia Pty Ltd
Sterling Kershaw & Co
Almond Board of Australia

GOLD (7)

Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
NSW Apiarist Association
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER (24)

Australian Quality Honey (Blue Hills Honey)
Bees Neez Apiaries
Brenton, Daryl
Boyd Apiaries Pty Ltd
Cairns District Beekeeping Assoc
Cooper, Casey
Davies Apiaries
Desert Breeze Honey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
McDonald, Bob & Eileen
McDonald, Peter & Michelle
Michie, Robert & Raelene
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers Association
Warral Apiaries P/L
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers Association

BRONZE (10)

Clarke, RK & KM
Cunial Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Holscher, Luke
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers
Lutze, B&L
Masters, Neil
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Targett, Stephen
Walkabout Apiaries

COPPER (26)

AB's Honey
Ascot Veterinary Group
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Bee Scientifics (Jody Gerdts)
Berry, Jessica
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Clarke, Michael
Clifford, David
Cooper, Barry
Frost, Liz
Gustare Honey Australia
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Jordan, Corinne
Kennett Apiaries (SA) Pty Ltd
MacGibbon, Kevin
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Petratos, Aris
Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Westlands Honey Beverley WA
Wilson, Luke

OTHER (4)

Davey, Robin
De Broun, Pauline
Honeylife Australia
Shaw, Robert

NON-PUBLISHED Value (17)

Australian Women in Beekeeping
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies
BeelInventive (Flow)
Ecrotek
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithful, Mark
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Geelong Beekeepers Club
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
Hibberd, GL & HK, HSH Apiary
Leemon, Diana
Lewis, Peter
Matsen, Jeff
Moggill Honey
Naicol Pty Ltd
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

ANONYMOUS (13)

Did you expect your name to be listed here?

Please check your emails for a message from AHBIC inviting you to renew your contribution (AHBIC emails often end up in spam) or feel free to email [Helen Goodall](mailto:Helen.Goodall@ahbic.org.au).



NOTE FROM CHAIR, PETER McDONALD

This will be my last note as Chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). My two year term is up and I have not re-nominated for the role. After a number of years in various roles with AHBIC I will be taking some time to focus on my immediate family and business.

When you enter a role you bring with you many plans of what needs to be done, however, inevitably events occur that divert attention and energy away from your original plans. This constantly happens with any representative group, AHBIC especially. Many issues are in the process of being addressed but they take time to come to fruition. I have been no different to those who have preceded me or who will come after. I have had a fantastic, but exhausting time as the Chair of AHBIC. I will now step into the background for a time, but continue to assist wherever I can.

In reflection, AHBIC has come a long way in our brief 22 year history. It has established itself as the peak industry body for Honey Bees in Australia and pivoted the main focus from marketing our products towards biosecurity, working with Plant Health Australia (PHA) and being part of the creation of a world leading system of partnership between governments and industry to manage exotic pests and diseases.

AHBIC has had to evolve throughout this time and continues to do so today and I will provide a few prime examples of this change:

- I look at the people on the AHBIC Executive and I am extremely pleased. We have moved from a male dominated organisation to one where women are taking a leading role. Women have always contributed to our industry and are now at the forefront of our organisation. Currently our CEO and 2 elected Executive positions are filled by women. I look forward to hopefully the not too distant future when we have a female Chair of AHBIC.
- Over approximately the last 10 years AHBIC has implemented a massive change in the way we manage pests and diseases. In partnership with every state we are employing Bee Biosecurity Officers and taking some ownership for the education of beekeepers and control of the health of our hives at an industry level. It is the biggest change in this area ever.
- This year we welcome for the first time a new member of AHBIC in the Amateur Beekeeping Association of NSW (ABA), the first since its formation in 1998 with indications that more may come in the near future. Since being established the AHBIC has changed its constitution numerous times to fit how the organisation has evolved. This will continue in the future as our Honey Bee community continues to grow.
- There have always been challenges that have to be met and that will always continue. 2019-20 has been an extreme example of this. Drought, bushfire, floods, COVID-19 and the constant underlying issue of trying to meet all these challenges with very limited budgets. AHBIC is meeting these challenges through plans for changes to our Levy system to continue funding our biosecurity systems, a 4th Australian Honey Bee Congress in 2022, expanding our membership and Friends of AHBIC, to name a few. These will all involve many hours of dedicated commitment.

I would like to thank the AHBIC Executive (and their families) for the past two years, Stephen Fewster, Leilani Leyland, Kevin MacGibbon, Peter Barnes, Therese Kershaw, Trevor Weatherhead, and Jodie Goldsworthy for their energy and efforts to meet our challenges these past 2 years.

I would especially like to thank the 3 CEO's who have spanned my term as Chair, Trevor & Marion Weatherhead, Sarah Paradice and Helen Goodall. Their professionalism, expertise, advice and absolute dedication to the Honey Bee industry has been and continues to be outstanding.

Lastly, I would like to thank the 106 current Friends of AHBIC for their direct financial support. Without your commitment our industry would be in dire straits indeed.

I remain extremely optimistic for the future of our Honey Bee industry with over 30,000 registered beekeepers throughout Australia and look forward to the many achievements that will come.

AHBIC AGM AND EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

As previously advised the 2020 AHBIC AGM was scheduled to be held on 5 July 2020 in Victoria, to follow the Victorian Apiarist Association conference. Due to the impact of COVID-19 the AGM cannot be held in this format. Alternative arrangements have been made to hold the 2020 AHBIC AGM as a virtual AGM via Zoom. It will be held on Monday 6 July 2020. The virtual AGM will need to accommodate up to 35 attendees. To give all required attendees reasonable opportunity to participate in this virtual format, observers cannot be accommodated for this AGM.

As a reminder there are three (3) elected positions which will become vacant. They are the Chairperson and two (2) Executive positions. The two (2) Executive members stepping down are Peter Barnes and Trevor Weatherhead. Both are eligible to stand again.

Chairperson

Nominations have closed.

Other Executive positions

The candidates for other positions on the Executive are elected from the floor of the Annual General Meeting.

For full details, see Section 7 of the AHBIC constitution which is on the AHBIC website. Link to Constitution can be found [HERE](#).



NOTE FROM CEO, HELEN GOODALL

Although my days are spent in front of a computer screen thanks to COVID-19, it has been a varied and exciting month with virtual meetings, end of financial year, event planning and some project work that expects to see some great outcomes.

Peter McDonald and I attended the *AgriFutures Levied Industries Virtual Forum*. Holding a forum of this size virtually does present challenges and there are some learnings to help us with our virtual AGM which will be of similar size. Presentations were provided by AgriFutures and 12 levied industries who attended, including a presentation from Peter on behalf of our industry. A few messages from the forum included: Research and development (R&D) should be understood by industry for implementation, R&D needs to lead to outcomes including commercial outcomes, many levied industries are facing similar issues and cross collaboration would be of benefit in sharing strategies, the need for industry capacity/leadership building programs and succession planning for both industry and R&D panels.

AHBIC funded through AgriFutures have commissioned research agency Pollinate to conduct research to develop a communications plan to raise awareness of the crucial role of honey bees. This project seeks to create a communications plan to assist industry in raising awareness of the importance of bees for healthy ecosystems, healthy forests and global food security. Interviews will be conducted with a range of stakeholders in the next week including our members, industry and the general public to gain insight and input. It is anticipated that results of this work will begin to be seen by August 2020.

Although we are operating in uncertain times particularly in the conference world, we have been working to reduce the risk and commence the planning for the Australian Honey Bee Congress in 2022. It has been confirmed that Shona Blair will be Chair of the 2022 Congress committee. We will keep you updated.



Two months in and I am learning more each day of the complexities and issues facing the industry. Thank you to so many of you who are willing to share your knowledge and expertise which makes my job a little easier. To help with the learnings, I am keen to hear from you. Last month's newsletter referenced that from a possible 32,000 industry contributors, there are 106 who are a 'Friend of AHBIC', which is not great stats. AHBIC regularly communicate the work that is undertaken on behalf of the industry and the call for contributions sits right at the front of this newsletter. I would like to hear from our 'Friends of AHBIC' to gain a better understanding of why you choose to support AHBIC. I am also keen to hear from those who are reading this newsletter, who have not selected to be a 'Friend of AHBIC'. To make change we need to know the why, which can lead to new ideas. Please email me your thoughts at ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Recent meetings attended by CEO and/or AHBIC Chair/Executive

- 12 May - AgriFutures - AHBIC Bushfire Recovery Draft Report by Michael Clarke
- 18 May - Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests meeting - Varroa Mite detection
- 22 May - National Varroa Mite Eradication Program - update
- 22 May - Producer Contingency Fund sub – committee meeting
- 25 May - 29th Plant Industry Forum videoconference
- 25 May - Plant Health Australia General Meeting
- 27 May - National Bee Biosecurity Program and National Bee Pest Surveillance Program meetings
- 28 May - AHBIC Executive meeting
- 28 May - 8th Honey Bee PMC meeting
- 29 May - State Associations meeting – Bushfire Recovery Plan report
- 10 June - AgriFutures Australia Levied Industry Virtual Forum 2020
- 12 June - National Varroa Mite Program Industry update

APPLICATIONS OPEN: AGRIFUTURES AUSTRALIA HONEY BEE AND POLLINATION PROGRAM ADVISORY PANEL

[AgriFutures Australia](#) is seeking applications from suitably qualified individuals for a position on the AgriFutures Australia Honey Bee & Pollination Program Advisory Panel. Applicants require experience in the commercial pollination industry, or in the scientific field of microbiology. Submissions close 12 noon, Wednesday 1 July 2020.

HIVEAID

A report from Rural Aid as at 27 May 2020 on the Hive Aid program is outlined below. We are pleased so many beekeepers have been assisted and that funds collected have been distributed to those in need. Spread the word and encourage donations to Hive Aid [here](#). If you need help, register [here](#).

Monthly Bee Farmer Registrations

January 2020	52
February 2020	38
March 2020	22
April and May 2020	50 (to 27/5/2020)

Total number of bee farmers registered as at 27/05/20	162
Confirmed Bee farmers and processed	143
Hobby farmers	16
Bee registrations still being verified and processed	3

Aid provided

\$500 Country Card	180	= \$88,900
Water requests	2	= \$1263
\$1,500 Financial Assistance	114	= \$172,147
\$1,500 Beekeeper Card	140	= \$210,000
Total spent		= \$472,310



HEAR FROM SEVERAL OF OUR STATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

BICWA & WA Farmers Beekeeping Section Update

Usually, in May we hold our AGM and Conference, mingle with beekeepers, researchers and Government representatives. Unfortunately, the Conference needed to be cancelled however the AGM is rescheduled to Friday, 17th July 2020, time and venue to be confirmed closer to the date.

The latest COVID-19 announcement includes changes to regional travel boundaries beginning from Monday 18th May. There are now 4 Travel regions. Travel will be allowed between Perth, Peel, Wheatbelt, South West and Great Southern. Without reason for essential travel ie. the G2G App approved, you cannot go further north past approximately Jurien Bay.

The other two regions are Mid-West, Gascoyne and Pilbara. Within the Goldfields-Esperance region and between local government areas in the Kimberley. Check the Industry webpage for further information and travel documents <https://www.bicwa.com.au/covid-19-updates>.

Fellow beekeepers seem to have travelled well. We have only been advised of one recreational beekeeper who was turned around as he did not have the G2G App confirmation.

In the last month, the BICWA board met with Darren West, MLA, WA Farmers CEO Trevor Whittington and John Shannon from Veges WA to discuss funding avenues and structure options. A letter to the Minister, asking for guidance and support was sent out earlier this month with no responds received yet.

I hope that everyone is enjoying a bit of rest and getting ready for a big year ahead.

Brendon Fewster
BICWA Chairman May 2020

There is no report from WA Farmer as no meeting has been held.

NSWAA Update

NSWAA AGM/Conference has been cancelled. IAW the constitution 3 executive members had to stand down. Four people were nominated for the three positions resulting in a postal ballot. Independent vote counter and scrutineer are being used.

NSWAA preparing submission for NSW \$140 million Bushfire recovery package. Submissions close 17 Jul 2020. Beekeepers who have had sites burnt (private or public) can claim 50% reimbursement of monies paid for sugar, sugar syrup, pollen and pollen substitutes from Aug 2019 through to Sep 2020. This grant is open until 12 June 2020.

NSWAA is grateful that the government is including beekeepers in the bushfire recovery package. NSW beekeepers have heavy vehicle registration fees and public land bee site fees have been waived for 2021. Drought transport subsidies are still available for transport of water, food and bees.

Some parts of NSW has had reasonable rain. Prospects are reasonable in some areas and poor in many others.

Stephen Targett
President May 2020

EXTENSIONAUS

Ensure you make the most of these informative [ExtensionAUS](#) resources. More have recently been uploaded so please utilise these free resources:

- [Professional Beekeepers – hygienic behaviour](#)
- [Genetic evaluation of Australian honey bees](#)
- [B-QUAL ensuring food safety standards](#)

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- [Varroa mite detection](#) in Townsville. Biosecurity Queensland officers working as part of the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) are responding to a new incursion of varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) found on a nest of feral Asian honey bees at the Port of Townsville on 28 April 2020.
- [Bees starved](#) by drought will cause crops to fail if left to die, warn Queensland beekeepers. An unprecedented combination of drought and bushfires has left little food in the wild and many commercial beekeepers have been forced to hand feed their bees to keep them alive.
- Planning for drought is a complex and difficult business. Too often, good ideas are forgotten once rain falls and business as usual resumes. [Planning for drought - practical handbook](#) aims to capture strategies for future use.
- [Almond pollination](#) preparation 2020. The 2020 almond pollination season is not far away. The Agriculture Victoria apiary team reminds beekeepers planning to provide pollination services that it is vital to adequately prepare hives so that they are healthy and strong to work in the orchards.
- Through CSRIO, [Pollen DNA Meta barcoding](#) research is being undertaken in developing and applying ecological and genomic methods to understand plant-pollinator interactions. The reported global decline of pollinators is one of the most serious issues today relating to food security and biodiversity management.
- ABARES Australian crop report – [June 2020](#)
- A professional beekeeper is appealing for public help to find the thieves responsible for a night-time raid on beehives in the Toolara State Forest, north-east of Gympie, [Stolen hives](#).
- Australian Virtual Hobby Beekeepers Conference Saturday 20 June 2020. Promo code for Friends of AHBIC (\$5 discount) until sold out. [Click here](#) and use promo code: AHBIC.

'Australian Virtual Hobby Beekeepers Conference June 2020'

11 + 1 STUNNING SPEAKERS

- The Australia Honey Bee Industry Council • NT Bees Hive Tour • Natural Beekeeping Tas • Small Hive Beetle with Dr Diana Leemon • Mead Making with Tom • Parliament House Bees with Cormac • The Science of Honey with Dr Kate Hammer • Honey Tasting with Jess • Valkenburg Apiaries • Bees the Gateway Insect with Cedar Anderson • #plantmorebee food with Costa

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 10AM-4PM

Ticket \$25

Book @ eventbrite or Facebook

- [Free webinars - Bee biosecurity public talk series](#) Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer Rebecca Laws has taken her bee biosecurity workshops online.
- Interview with chief beekeeper at Parliament house, [World bee day](#)
- AgriFutures Australia in partnership with the Western Australian Government have postponed the evokeAG 2021 event to [15-16 February-2022](#) , in recognition of the unprecedented impact COVID-19 has had on the economy particularly on those businesses and participants who have invested in evokeAG.
- 2020 Beekeeper Survey. Plan Bee aims to foster a sustainable national genetic improvement program using innovative breeding technologies to transform the performance of honey bees in Australia. As part of this work we are assessing the attitudes of queen bee producers and beekeepers toward queen breeding and purchase in order to inform the program. Please click [here](#) to undertake the survey.

MEDIA RELEASES

- [The Australian Manuka Honey Association](#) (AMHA) announced on ANZAC Day, the appointment of Mr Tom Walters from New Zealand to the AHMHA Board. Mr Walters sits on a number of Boards, including Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust, Kaimanawa Trust, is a Director of Manuka Honey Group and is CEO of Maori Research Institute Ltd.
- Enhancements to the [National Bee Pest Surveillance Program](#) have delivered a range of valuable outcomes to support the health of Australia's bees. These enhancements will improve our surveillance, diagnostics, preparedness and response arrangements for key bee pests and viruses.
- [CropLife](#) Australia has released its updated Resistance Management Strategies for fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, featuring a newly developed strategy for fall armyworm.

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – INTERNATIONAL

- On the occasion of the third observance of [World Bee Day - Bee engaged](#) FAO, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), the Apicultural Science Association of China (ASAC), the Permanent Representation of Slovenia and Apimondia, held a virtual celebration. The event highlighted the importance of bees and their products, and the role of beekeepers.
- [Bumblebees](#) bite plants to force them to flower.

Please see link to the [APVMA website](#) to view all information from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines (APVMA) Gazette which is published fortnightly and contains:

- details of the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemical products and other approvals granted by the APVMA
- notices as required by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (the Agvet Code) and related legislation
- a range of regulatory material issued by the APVMA.

If you would like to be notified by email when a new edition is published, please complete the [subscription form](#).

B-QUAL

CRC /B-QUAL have finalised negotiations and have progressed with the digitisation project with a contract being awarded to a Perth WA based software development company. Software works will be completed and in field testing before Christmas; a full release is planned for early in 2021.

The B-QUAL newsletter includes useful information on self-care in these challenging times and can be found [here](#).

Make sure you sign up to B-QUAL – an important quality assurance system! Click [here](#) for more information.



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