



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News September 2021

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

CONTRIBUTE HERE

Or use the form on the last page

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry that supports you



Photo credit: Peter Barnes

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CONTENTS

Page 3	Acknowledging our Friends of AHBIC
Page 4	News from the Chair Trevor Weatherhead
Page 5	Note from the CEO Helen Goodall
Page 6,7	AHBIC Award of Excellence 2019
Page 8,9	Hear from our Members
Page 10	Scholarships
Page 10	Publications and Resources
Page 10	EXTENSIONAUS
Page 11	B-QUAL
Page 12	Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Form



Photo credit: Peter Barnes

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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)

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

GOLD PLUS (10)

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

GOLD (13)

Australian Queen Bee Line P/L
Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Browns Bees Australia P/L
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
Bricknell, Jack
Jensen, Bryce & Leanne
McDonald Honey
Mid Western Fresh Honey
Riverina Beekeeping Supplies P/L
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER (26)

Australian Manuka Honey
Association Ltd
Australian Quality Honey (Blue
Hills Honey)
Australian Women in Beekeeping
Club Inc
Barnes Apiaries
Bees Neez Apiaries

Boyd Apiaries P/L
Cooper, Casey
Desert Breeze Honey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Ecrotek
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Honey Australia P/L
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
Manukalife Pty Ltd
McDonald, Eileen & Bob
Michie, Robert & Raelene
Nuplas P/L
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers
Association
Warral Apiaries P/L
Wilson, Colin

BRONZE (15)

Archibald Honey P/L
Arkadieff, Murray
Australian Honeybee P/L
Clarke, RK & KM
Cunial Beekeeping P/L
Fuller, Steve
G&A Apiaries
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Holscher, Luke
Ipswich & West Moreton
Beekeepers
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Masters, Neil & Sharon
Targett, Stephen
The House of Honey

COPPER (31)

AB's Honey
Australian Honey.com
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Bee all Natural
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Carpenter, Ian
Clarke, Michael
Cooper, Barry
Costa, Daniel
De Jong, Wim
Frost, Liz
Godman, Phil
Griffin, Vic
Gustare Honey Australia P/L
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
JBR Bees
Jordan, Corinne
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L
Mew, Peter
Moran, Jessica
Nairn, Mal
Nobbs, Courtney
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Wheat, Nathan
Wilson, Luke

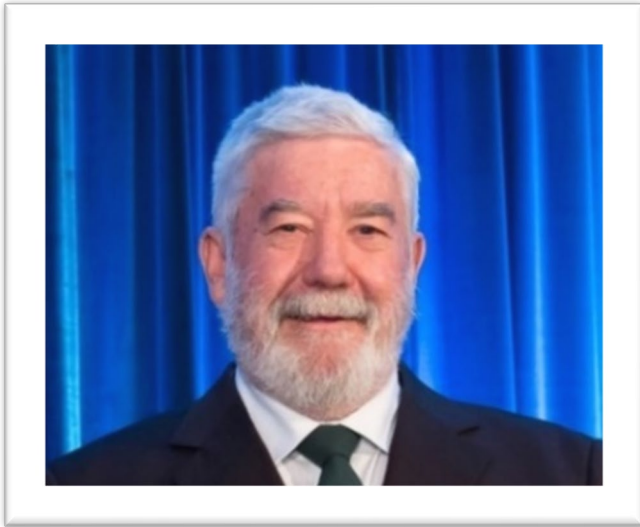
OTHER (7)

Copier, Aaron
De Broun, Pauline
Drake, Liam
Kassebaum Christopher
Honeylife Australia
Rasmussen, Ivan
Shaw, Robert

NON-PUBLISHED Value (25)

Australian Virtual Hobby
Beekeepers Conference 2021
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping
Supplies
Brenton, Daryl
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithfull, Mark
Geelong Beekeepers
Gibson, David lee
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
Gold Amateur Beekeeping Society
Honey Australia P/L
Hampton, Tom
Hivekeepers
Lewis, Peter
McCormick Jenny
Moggill Honey
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Naicol P/L
Sorensen, Glen & Trevor
Southern Truck Centre
Tabulam Real Honey
The Tasmanian Honey Company
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

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).



1. AHBIC recently made a submission on a “Trade Advice Notice for dicamba in the product XtendiMax 2 Herbicide with VapourGrip Technology for use on XtendFlex cottonDicamba”. As was reported to member bodies AHBIC has received a reply to some of the issues raised. The answers were:-

As part of the Environmental assessment for this application, the risks to bees were assessed in line with the Roadmap to Pollinator Risk Assessment.

The Environmental assessment concluded dicamba is not toxic to bees and synergistic effects when mixed with other pesticides are not anticipated

2. Recently the Australian Government announced they would issue Agricultural visas for foreign workers. AHBIC was part of an initial consultation outlining how they would work. AHBIC is collating data from various beekeepers who used foreign workers and this will be provided to the Department. As more information becomes available it will be passed on.

A fact sheet can be seen at https://mcusercontent.com/77184a53859671a3a3acbbb4e/files/6835c9ac-80aa-6fa9-8251-2496f34f888c/210908_Agriculture_Visa_Factsheet.pdf

Or further information can be seen at [The Australian Agriculture Visa | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](https://www.dfat.gov.au/visas/agricultural-visa)

3. Plant Health Australia have prepared the National Plant Biosecurity Status Report. It can be seen at <https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/national-programs/national-plant-biosecurity-status-report/>
4. AgriFuturesAU has just launched the inaugural Rural Women’s Acceleration Grant to provide leadership and development opportunities for our future female leaders. For more details see https://www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/acceleration-grant/?_ga=2.63832175.1326652727.1632525566-995190180.1625725755
5. A project, called MUST-B, has been announced in Europe that will look at honey bees. Data, such as synergistic effects of pesticides, will be useful for us here in Australia. For more details see <https://www.beeculture.com/european-must-b/>



NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

Thank you

Thank you for the continued support of our 'Friends of AHBIC' and welcome to the new friends of AHBIC.

B-QUAL

The B-QUAL Digitation App is ready. For further information please see the B-QUAL newsletter at <https://honeybee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/B-Qual-Sept-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

Congress

The Congress sub-committee is busy planning for the 4th Australian Bee Congress: *Celebrating Honey Bees - At the heart of a healthy Australia*. There have been some delays due to the current COVID restrictions. The Sponsorship and Trade Exhibition Prospectus will be launched in October 2021 and it is expected that the Congress website will be launched shortly.

Imports and Exports

For your information, please see the below table on the honey imports and exports for 2020/2021.

Quarter	Import tonnes	Export tonnes
Sept 20	2,078	934
Dec 20	2,138	1,319
Mar 21	1,653	916
Jun 21	1,291	972
Total	7,160	4,141

Please note:

The top 5 import countries – China, New Zealand, Brazil, Argentina, India

The top 5 export countries – Singapore, USA, Indonesia, China, Japan

Please remember to stay connected with AHBIC through social media.

Follow us to receive the latest industry news, beekeeping stories, fun facts and more.

Instagram: @australianhoneybees

LinkedIn: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

You can also find us on:

Facebook: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

Twitter: @AustBee

Do you have some content you would like us to share? Tag us or use #AHBIC for us to see!



AHBIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2019



In 2019, AHBIC granted the AHBIC Award of Excellence to Ian Zadow, from Tintinara in South Australia, and Craig Klingner from Glen Innes in New South Wales. Circumstances have been such that AHBIC has not been able to present the awards to Ian and Craig at an AHBIC AGM or a State conference which is where they are normally presented.

It has been decided that the awards will be posted to Ian and Craig. The below provides an outline to why they were granted the Award of Excellence. These details were current in 2019.

Ian has been an executive member of the South Australian Apiarists' Association for 14 years including 3 years as President and 7 years on AHBIC, 3 as Chairperson.

Craig has been active in the New South Wales Apiarists Association (NSWAA) for 7 years including 1 year as President and 9 years on AHBIC, 2 as Deputy Chairperson.

Establishment of the Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice and National Bee Biosecurity Program

For many years the industry had grappled with how to handle some endemic disease such as American foulbrood. There was a gradual decline in the support from the various State Departments as they had to deal with budget cuts. A workshop was held to see what could be done. Out of this workshop the idea of the Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice (COP) was born.

To put this in place Ian and Craig were part of a Committee that developed the COP. From there Ian and Craig went to every State conference to present and gain support for the COP. The COP was adopted by industry in 2016.

As part of the COP deliberations, the National Bee Biosecurity Program was also developed. This allowed for the employment of Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO) in each State. The BBO's were to act similar to the Extension Officers that used to be with the various State Agriculture Departments many years ago. Their role was to help beekeepers become compliant with the COP and also help beekeepers with the management of endemic disease and pest and recognition of exotic diseases and pests.

Ian and Craig played a pivotal role in enacting the programs.

AHBIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2019 Continued

Honey Levy Changes

For the Code of Practice, the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program and the National Bee Biosecurity Program to be put in place there was a need to increase the honey levy to pay for all these new initiatives.

The proposal was to double the levy from 2.3 cents per kilogram to 4.6 cents per kilogram. No one likes paying more so it was up to Ian, Craig and the team to convince beekeepers that they would be getting value for money. If the increase was not achieved then the programs would not be able to be put in place.

Through the hard work of the team in firstly convincing beekeepers that the increase was necessary then preparing and putting the submission to Government these programs are now a reality and will be a great benefit to the biosecurity and prosperity of the beekeeping industry.

Other areas

Ian has also been active in the transition of AHBIC from Animal Health Australia to Plant Health Australia and also in the establishment of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program.

Sacrifices

All this negotiation and consultation was extremely taxing on Ian and Craig both personally in terms of the inordinate amount of time it took away from their family and economically in terms of the lost time and focus on their own family business. However, Ian and Craig held a steadfast belief that the changes they were championing were absolutely necessary to the improvement of the industry that was a key part of their life, beekeeping.



ARE YOU A BEEKEEPER IMPACTED BY DROUGHT, BUSHFIRE AND FLOOD
The following support is available nationally through Hive Aid - funded by Rural Aid:

1 x \$500 country card (pre-paid Visa card) Financial assistance to pay or pre-pay bills to the value of \$1000

HOW TO REGISTER

All impacted beekeepers, listed as primary producers, are encouraged to register for assistance via:

<https://faa.ruralaid.org.au/farmer-registration>

When registering for assistance, please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper. All applications are treated with strict confidentiality by Rural Aid.

HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS

Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA)

A hectic spring season started with abundant wildflowers and trees full of buds, looking very promising for continuous strong nectar flow. Despite the heavy beekeeping schedule, a lot of important and exciting things happened in the last month.

The industry celebrates the Premiers' and Minister Sanderson and Kelly announcement to stop native logging from 2024. This is a historic moment, and we congratulate WA Forrester Alliance (WAFA), its supporters and WA residents, who helped make this happen. But, as WAFA stated, there are still two years in front of us, and we need to make sure the next Forest Management Plan (FMP) is done right! This announcement has brought a lot of attention also to our industry. An Industry Statement was published, interviews provided, and social media reactions monitored. BICWA is invited to the preliminary FMP discussions, and has formed a strong and dedicated BICWA sub-committee to represent the industry and community.

As we build our relationship with the Department for Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), we are offered to comment on the prescribed burn plan 2022 to 2024. This gives us an insight and will enable us to discuss future burn plans, and advise the Department of predicted flowering patterns for highly valued apiary sites. We remain positive in achieving more flexibility in delaying burns in areas most valued to us by working closely with DBCA.

The Department for Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) offered the industry a briefing of WA's Draft native vegetation policy. This policy paper is seen as a roadmap for government agencies and provides a framework to manage and protect native vegetation. It is a very important paper, which our industry should support. DWER asks for public feedback, and we encourage you to take part and send your comments before the 25th Oct – find more details [here](#). The BICWA sub-committee Resource and Biosecurity will elaborate on industry comments before the due date.

Electric Pictures approached us to gather beekeeping material to produce a promo video for a series on Beekeeping in WA. This company specialises in producing factual programming that appeals to a television audience looking for high-quality filmmaking and engaging stories. The beekeeping project is pending sponsors. I have invited the Electric Pictures contact to the queen marking at Baldivis to meet more of the industry representatives.

Changes to the BICWA Constitution is in its final stage, and we are starting consultations on the final draft with member organisations in October, explaining the changes. More information on dates and the format of consultation sessions will follow shortly. Keep an eye out on our Facebook or webpage.

And last but not least - Thank you to Joy & Tom Coy, Leilani Leyland and all the volunteers who put up their hands to promote our industry at this year Perth Royal Show. This is a valued contribution and helps in building our relationship with the public.

Until next time – stay well.
Regards, Brendon, Chair

Remember to like us on Facebook and/or subscribe to our BICWA website to stay up to date on industry news.

Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA)

The past few months have seen the QBA buzzing with activity, continuing our strong advocacy and representation of beekeeping in Queensland. Since wrapping up our 2021 State Conference in June we have been working on a number of key matters of importance for our members and greater industry.

Although the pandemic has created obstacles in meeting in a face-to-face manner, we have been able to transition into working in the digital space. Most interactions with Government now occur through Microsoft teams. These digital meetings have allowed us to continue working on key matters of importance to the Queensland Honey bee industry. A number of key matters we continue to focus on are itemised below.

Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) continued

COVID-19 - As with 2020, this year's battle to contain COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks have felt like 'Groundhog Day' once again. After our experience in working through the challenges of maintaining border access provisions for industry in 2020, we quickly realised we would again need to pivot to ensure our industry was well positioned to continue our important work through rather visible state border closures. The QBA Management Team again appointed State Secretary Jo Martin, to represent industry at all critical meetings relating to COVID-19. Jo has successfully made significant representation to Government agencies in Queensland, working collaboratively with Queensland representatives and their colleagues in southern states to ensure the honey bee industry was recognised under the appropriate permits, in turn alleviating significant logistic and paperwork requirements for the industry. Jo continues to ensure all QBA members and our colleague state industry bodies receive on time important updates on changes to working honey bees outside of Queensland.

Access to Resource - Approximately 11 months ago, QBA received a written letter of commitment to extend access to Queensland National Park apiary sites until 31 December 2044 (20-year extension) from Queensland's Deputy Premier, Hon Steven Miles. To date, the QBA has been working closely with Minister Scanlon, the Department of Environment and Science, Minister Furner and the Premier's Office to ensure the Queensland Government is kept accountable to their commitment. Although progress on this matter may appear to be slow, we are reassured the legislative amendment will be delivered in the very near future. QBA will advise members in writing of the timing of the delivery of this bill for amendment to the Queensland Parliament.

Biosecurity - As advised in the recent AHBIC newsletter, the QBA is relieved to receive communication advising of the proof of freedom declaration from the recent National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) triggered in 2019 after detection of varroa mites found in a colony of Apis cerana in the Port of Townsville. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Rob Stephens, Roger Winton and the entire NVMEP team for the professionalism and dedication to ensuring the mites were eradicated from the Townsville LGA.

The well-known term 'it's not if, it's when' continues to echo when it comes to another incursion in the Port of Townsville particularly. In mid-April 2021, QBA representatives Rob Dewar (2020 President), Jacob Stevens (2020 Biosecurity Chair), and State Secretary Jo Martin were fortunate to travel to Townsville to experience the final week of surveillance activities for the NVMEP. Although Rob Dewar had previously visited the program, this visit provided an invaluable first-hand experience to Jacob and Jo, delivering an in-depth understanding of the program and stimulating thought on how we could improve our biosecurity mechanisms to ensure we do not have a one size fits all approach to National Biosecurity surveillance. Learnings from this visit are being used in discussion with Biosecurity Queensland.

QBA Website Redesign

Just a few short weeks before our conference, the QBA Management Team employed the services of a professional website creator/designer to give our website a freshen up adding some additional functionality to our digital platform. We would like to acknowledge our annual sponsors for their financial support in this project and look forward to delivering a new 'refreshed' website in the coming months.

In recent months we have devoted much effort into refreshing our webpage to deliver an engaged user experience for our website visitors. Whilst the new site is under construction, our current QBA website is packed with information on a range of important beekeeping information.

We would also like to express our thanks to Marion Weatherhead for her efforts managing the website for a significant number of years. QBA acknowledged Marion's contributions at our recent conference and hope that Marion will provide feedback to the Management team on the new look of the QBA website once the management team have settled on the new look and user experience.

As a final note, although the drought continues to plague much of Queensland, we are invigorated to hear reports of a reasonable flow expected in summer 2022 (dependent on spring rainfall). After years of battling through one of the most severe and unrelenting droughts on record, it is a relief to hear that many members are seeing some great looking colonies and extractors are being fired up after lying dormant for some time.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award National Winner and Runner Up will now be announced via a live virtual National Announcement event on Wednesday, 20 October 2021 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm (AEDT). [Agrifutures](#)
- [Applications open](#) for Women's Leadership Development: Horticulture Sector. Scholarships grants are co-funded by Hort Innovation and Women & Leadership Australia.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

- Hort Innovation is funding a new [research](#) project based in the major apple growing region of Bilpin, NSW, looking at how the recent bushfires affected crop pollination and how long these effects will be felt.
- AgriFutures Australia provides access to a wide range of publications designed to help inform decisions made by Australian rural industries, and to contribute to policy debate on rural issues of national and international significance. Please click [here](#) for recent publications for the honey bee and pollination industry. Including:
 - [Plan Bee | AgriFutures Australia](#)
- Farmers, researchers and businesses can now see levy funded research from all the Research and Development Corporations in one location. Please visit [growAG.com](#)

EXTENSIONAUS

- Ensure you make the most of these informative [extensionaus -professional beekeepers](#) resources.

EXPORT UPDATES

- [Department of Agriculture](#) 2021-46 Plant Exports – Updates to the department's website
- [Department of Agriculture](#) 2021-13: Malaysia: Honey Products: New endorsements on honey export certificates



B-QUAL

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and hygiene



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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
Platinum Plus	\$60,000 & above	Silver	\$1,000 - \$1,999
Platinum	\$20,000 - \$59,999	Bronze	\$500 - \$999
Gold Plus	\$5,000 - \$19,999	Copper	\$100 - \$499
Gold	\$2,000 - \$4,999	Other	\$0 - \$99

Contribution Details

Name:

Address:

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

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

Phone: Date:

Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

1. EFT Deposit (preferred payment method)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405

Reference: Please include your NAME as the reference

2. CHEQUE: Please post cheque with this form to PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

3. CREDIT CARD: Online at <https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

Please circle YES/NO to the following:

1. The AHBIC newsletter lists contributors

i. Publish your name YES / NO

ii. Publish the contribution amount YES / NO

2. I would like to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter YES / NO

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you