

# Monthly NEWS



June 2018

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry

[www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)

From: Trevor Weatherhead AM – Executive Director

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Bob and Eileen McDonald  
AHBIC Award of Excellence



Prof. Ben Oldroyd  
Goodacre Memorial Award



John Davies  
AHBIC Award of Excellence

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# AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424



The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)  
is the **Peak Industry Body for the Australian Beekeeping Industry**  
working for all within our industry including  
**honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers.**

We urge beekeepers to support those  
Packers, Queen Bee Breeders, Equipment Manufacturers/Suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.

The following list recognises contributions received since

**1 July 2017**

*A number of generous Contributors wish to remain anonymous*

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

## Friends of AHBIC - Voluntary Contributions

### PLATINUM PLUS

### PLATINUM

### GOLD PLUS

### GOLD

Aust Maunuka Honey Assoc Inc  
Clarke, RK & AM  
Cotton, Allan & Michelle  
Hampel, SJ & SM

### SILVER

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Australian Quality Honey P/L  
Bee Services  
Bowman, Phillip & Theresa  
Casey, Cooper  
Honey Producers of Australia P/L  
Jensen, Rick  
Kuyan Apiaries (S.Fewster)  
Le Feuvre, Danny  
Linklater-Steele, James  
Manuka Life Pty Ltd  
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene  
Saxonbee Enterprises  
Zadow-IM & MJ Zadow Trust

### BRONZE

Desert Breeze Honey  
Lutze, Brett & Lynda  
Pure Peninsula Honey

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Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd  
Bee Scientifics (Gerdts, Jodie)  
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping  
Supplies  
Bricknell, Jack  
Cooper, Barry  
Curless, David  
Dewar, Paula  
Hampson, Terry  
(Daybreak Apiaries)  
Hum Honey (Leisa Sams)

Ipswich & West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc Inc  
McDonald, Robert  
NT Bees (Aust) Pty Ltd  
Porter, ML & DJ  
Ridley Bee Products  
Rudder, Janine (JBR Bees)  
Ruge, Clinton  
Watson, James  
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion

### OTHER

Godman, Phil  
Knox, Kathy  
Verrenkamp, Leonard  
West-Bee Honey

### HONEY PRODUCERS

Abbott, B & Proudford, R  
Active Medicinal Honey  
Badger Head Bees  
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd  
(on behalf of some producers)  
Bees Neez Apiaries  
Blair, Shona  
Bliss, Stephen  
Clifford, Ray  
Davey, Robin  
Davies Apiaries  
Dewar, Robert & Melissa  
Faithfull, Mark  
Gells Honey Maryborough  
Glasby, Garry  
Grizzly Bear Apiaries  
Harvey, Andrew  
Hooper, Ben (Hooper Honey)  
Hoskinson, HL & HM

Jones, Bryn  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, Joshua  
Klinger, Craig  
Lukas, Barbara  
Masters, Neil & Sharon  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
McDonald, Peter & Michelle  
McGlew, Gary  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
Nairn, Mal  
Plum, Len & Susan  
Ruge Honey  
Shaw, Robert  
Stokes, Peter  
Targett, Stephen  
Trigg, Margaret  
Valkenburg Apiaries  
Walkabout Apiaries  
Weerona Apiaries

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Australian Honey Products P/L  
Australia's Manuka P/L  
Bee Happy Apiaries  
Clifford, David  
Heritage Honey  
Honey I'm Home  
R.Stephens  
The House of Honey

### HONEY PACKERS

AB's Honey  
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd  
Capilano Honey Ltd  
Gustare Honey Australia P/L  
Honeylife Australia  
Superbee Honey Factory

### QUEEN BEE BREEDERS

Gerdts, Jody

### BEEKEEPING GROUPS

Amateur Beekeepers Asn of NSW Inc  
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc Inc  
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers Inc  
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers  
Society Ltd  
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc  
Northside Beekeepers Assoc Inc

### BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Ecrotek  
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Quality Beekeeping Supplies  
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies  
Schutz Australia Pty

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## **THIRD AUSTRALIAN BEE CONGRESS**

What a great success the Congress was. Positive comments all round. I will put out a special Congress issue soon.

### **AHBIC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

This year two (2) AHBIC Awards of Excellence were awarded.

The first one was a joint one presented at the Victorian Apiarists Association Conference to Bob McDonald OAM and Eileen McDonald. This was in recognition of their contribution to beekeeping in Australia and in particular their involvement in securing the 2007 Apimondia for Australia.

The second award was made to John Davies at the Third Australian Bee Congress. John was recognised for his work in Western Australia in particular his input into the Better Bees WA bee breeding programme.

Congratulations to Bob, Eileen and John on their awards. Well deserved.

### **GOODACRE MEMORIAL AWARD**

The Goodacre Memorial Award was presented to Professor Ben Oldroyd at the dinner at the Third Australian Bee Congress.

I am sure that those in our industry would agree that it could not have been awarded to a more deserving person. Congratulations Ben.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Five year Strategic Plan has been adopted by industry. It will be put on the AHBIC website for those who did not get a copy.

### **AHBIC AGM**

The AHBIC AGM was held on Sunday 1 July, 2018 on the Gold Coast. The Executive for this year are:-

Chairperson – Peter McDonald

Deputy Chairperson – Stephen Fewster

Executive – Jodie Goldsworthy

Leilani Leyland

Peter Barnes

Kevin MacGibbon

Thanks go to Lindsay Bourke, who stepped down as Chairperson, and Executive members Ian Zadow and Phillip McHugh, who did not stand for re-election, for their contribution to the Executive.

More on the outcomes of the AGM and Executive meeting next issue.

## **POLLEN IN AUSTRALIAN HONEY**

A project on pollen analysis of Australian honey was funded by AgriFutures Australia (formerly RIRDC). A paper on the results can be found at this link.

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/comments?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0197545>

## **MELBOURNE INTERCEPTION**

Since my note I sent out on 3 July, 2018 there have been no new developments in Melbourne. Surveillance of hives within a two (2) km radius will continue but this is purely precautionary.

The question had been asked if the ship came directly into port or did it anchor offshore awaiting a berth. I have enquired and the ship came directly into port.

## **ASIAN BEES IN DARWIN**

At this stage no more Asian bees have been found in Darwin.

Peter McDonald and I spent a week in Darwin a few weeks back helping out. The bee birds are currently very thick and bees are not flying much due to their presence. The pellets from these bee birds were being collected from seven (7) roosts in Darwin and so far no Asian bee wings have been found.

Whilst in Darwin I participated in media interviews, both radio and TV, to keep the public on side and ask them to report any bee activity or any bee eater bird roosts. The response was positive with several new roosts being identified.

## **FEEDING BEES**

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, on an outback trip to Thargomindah, did not believe that bees have to be fed during dearth conditions. A quick chat with “Tractor” Ferguson soon gave him the good oil on this. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-06-12/outback-beekeeper-handfeeding-bees-during-west-qld-drought/9850358>

## **AGM DATES**

Annual conferences for 2019, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

New South Wales Apiarists Association	16 & 17 May -
Victorian Apiarists Association	4,5 & 6 June -
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	5 & 6 July -
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	TBA
South Australian Apiarists Association	TBA
Queensland Beekeepers Association	TBA
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	7 July -

## NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

**Application no.:** 107182  
**Product name:** Alpha-Scud 300 SC Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 300 g/L alpha-cypermethrin  
**Applicant name:** Adama Australia Pty Limited  
**Applicant ACN:** 050 328 973  
**Summary of use:** For the control of various pests including red legged earth mite and blue oat mite in field crops and pastures, fruit and vegetable crops  
**Date of registration:** 14 May 2018  
**Product registration no.:** 82944  
**Label approval no.:** 82944/107182

**Application no.:** 111222  
**Product name:** Sorcerer 36 Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 36 g/L abamectin  
**Applicant name:** Adama Australia Pty Limited  
**Applicant ACN:** 050 328 973  
**Summary of use:** For the control of a range of mite and insect pests in apples, blackcurrants, capsicums, citrus, hops, ornamentals, pears, tomatoes, soybeans, strawberries and vegetables  
**Date of registration:** 15 May 2018  
**Product registration no.:** 84720  
**Label approval no.:** 84720/111222

**Application no.:** 115035  
**Product name:** Farmalinx Zilch Miticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 100 g/L hexythiazox  
**Applicant name:** Farmalinx Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 134 353 245  
**Summary of use:** For the control of two-spotted mite (*Tetranychus urticae*) and European red mite (*Panonychus ulmi*) on apples, pears, stone fruit and ornamentals, and for the control of two-spotted mite on strawberries  
**Date of registration:** 17 May 2018  
**Product registration no.:** 86220  
**Label approval no.:** 86220/115035  
**Application no.:** 113164  
**Product name:** Karate Zeon Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 250 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin  
**Applicant name:** Syngenta Australia Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 002 933 717  
**Summary of variation:** To extend use to include control of Russian wheat aphid in wheat and barley and to remove state restriction where it occurs in barley, wheat, canola, legumes, cotton, lucerne and pasture  
**Date of variation:** 16 May 2018  
**Product registration no.:** 51422  
**Label approval no.:** 51422/113164

**Application no.:** 111121  
**Product name:** Surefire Reggae 480 SC Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 480 g/L thiacloprid  
**Applicant name:** Pct Holdings Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 099 023 962  
**Summary of use:** For the control of apple dimpling bug in apples, codling moth and oriental fruit moth in pome fruit and oriental fruit moth in stone fruit  
**Date of registration:** 19 June 2018  
**Product registration no.:** 84681  
**Label approval no.:** 84681/111121

An application has been received by APVMA to register a new chemical, flupyradifurone. It is proposed to be used for the control of macadamia lace bugs, banana and fruit spotting bugs and suppression of scirtothrips in macadamias.

I have found the following scientific report on the effect of this new chemical on honey bees. It can be found at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-23200-0>



The abstract says:-

*Due to intensive agriculture honeybees are threatened by various pesticides. The use of one group of them, the neonicotinoids, was recently restricted by the European Union. These chemicals bind to the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) in the honeybee brain. Recently, Bayer AG released a new pesticide by the name of “Sivanto” against sucking insects. It is assumed to be harmless for honeybees, although its active ingredient, flupyradifurone, binds nAChR similar to the neonicotinoids. We investigated if this pesticide affects the taste for sugar and cognitive performance in honeybee foragers. These bees are directly exposed to the pesticide while foraging for pollen or nectar. Our results demonstrate that flupyradifurone can reduce taste and appetitive learning performance in honeybees foraging for pollen and nectar, although only the highest concentration had significant effects. Most likely, honeybee foragers will not be exposed to these high concentrations. Therefore, the appropriate use of this pesticide is considered safe for honeybees, at least with respect to the behaviors studied here.*

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Thanks to those beekeepers who have responded to the call to become “Friends of AHBIC”. Many of you came forward at the Third Australian Bee Congress. We will need more beekeepers to become “Friends of AHBIC” if we are to be able to function efficiently into the future.

Left to right: Peter McDonald (Chair), Leilani Leyland, Stephen Fewster (Deputy Chair), Peter Barnes, Trevor Weatherhead (Executive Director), Kevin MacGibbon & Jodie Goldsworthy (insert)



## ADVERSE REPORTS

I have written in the past about the need to have adverse reports fill out if you suspect that you have a chemical poisoning of your bees. The phrase I used was that “if it is not reported it did not happen”.

It has come to AHBIC’s attention that some may not do this as they do not know how to navigate the details that need to be reported.

To this end the AHBIC Executive has decided that if you do not wish to report direct to APVMA then you can send the details to AHBIC and we will fill out the details and submit on your behalf.

I will develop a reporting form and include in the next newsletter. If, in the meantime, you do have an event contact me and I will take down the details and submit.

## PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND LOAN

The Producer Contingency Fund has made a loan of \$50,000 to the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) to allow them to mount a challenge to the trademarking of manuka by New Zealand in overseas countries. The loan will be repaid over five years (5).

Paul Callander (Chairman – Australian Manuka Honey Association) receiving \$50,000 from Kevin MacGibbon (Chairman – Producer Contingency Fund)



# **AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC**

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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Phone: 07 5467 2265  
Web Site: [www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)

## **Bob McDonald OAM and Eileen McDonald**

### **AHBIC Award of Excellence**

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) has deemed Eileen and Bob McDonald worthy recipients of a 2018 Award of Excellence for the role they played in winning the Bid to bring Apimondia to Australia (Melbourne) in 2007.

The award was presented at the recent 2018 Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. AGM.

The proposal to bid for another Apimondia for Australia was put to AHBIC in 2002. It was born from the many times that Eileen and Bob had travelled to various places in the world and greatly enjoyed the camaraderie with beekeepers at many different Apimondias. They wished that the wider Australian beekeeping community could have the pleasure of this great event in their own backyard.

To put it into context, hosting an Apimondia is the World Cup of Beekeeping. The bidding process to host the event is long and there is politics and manoeuvrings as each country vies for the honour.

The last Apimondia held in Australia was in Adelaide, 1977. A bid was made for the 2005 event but was unsuccessful. Whilst the bid team was disappointed they were undeterred and the subsequent challenge for 2007 was taken up.

Eileen and Bob continued leading the bid team and this time they were successful. It was an apt Apimondia to win as well, 30 years since the last had been in Australia.

The Apimondia went on to be a fantastic event with Eileen and Bob continuing to be involved through hosting delegates at their premises as one of the technical tours.

The event proved to be a great success for in the Australian beekeeping community, allowing us to showcase our country and our way of beekeeping as well as learn from and meet people from all over the world who also love honeybees. It also provided a financial boon for our industry, presenting a profit of over \$200,000.00.

The AHBIC is indebted to both Eileen and Bob for their tireless efforts in bringing the Apimondia event to Australia again and recognise the immense effort and personal sacrifices they made in leading the bid team for over 5 years.

## THANKS FROM BOB AND EILEEN MCDONALD

57 Sawmill Road,  
McKenzie Hill,  
Via Castlemaine  
Vic 3451.

11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

AHBIC Executive .

**Reference:** 2018 Award of Excellence.

Dear Lindsay, Trevor, Jodie, Leilani, Phil, and Ian,  
Bob and I wish to express our sincere appreciation to you for the presentation of this Award to us both at the Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. AGM.

Although an unsuccessful bid was made for 2005; then winning the bid to bring 2007 Apimondia back to Australia was at Bob's instigation (in company with the Melbourne Convention Centre), tribute must also be paid to all of those Aussies who supported us over the five years of our involvement with this project. To have played a part in staging this event for our beekeeping peers gave us a great sense of pleasure and satisfaction.

This industry of ours has a wonderful history of people who have striven to achieve objectives for the betterment of conditions and benefits of its members – giving a great example to all of us.

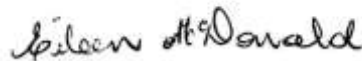
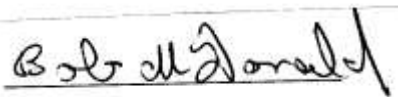
The service each of you is providing is keeping that history alive.

We believe that our actions have been but a small part in the scheme of things.

We have loved being part of a team of people devoted to the "Industry Cause".

This Award will hold pride of place in our hearts and home, serving as a reminder of the friendships formed in a wonderful team of Apimondia Bidders.

We thank you sincerely for thinking of us and wish you well for the future.





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### **John Davies**

#### **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Award of Excellence**

John Davies commenced commercial beekeeping in 1979 and soon established a very successful business. John was not happy with achieving 100% success in every aspect of his business but 150%. This quality was recognised by the WA beekeeping industry and government where he sat on a number of committees including the WA Farmers Federation - beekeepers executive, beekeepers consultative committee and bee industry consultative committee where he made a significant contribution to the wa beekeeping industry.

When the Department of Agriculture sold it's highly successful bee breeding program, conducted from 1980 to 1991 to the industry, John saw the potential for his business and the WA beekeeping industry by purchasing stock from the program. A consortium of beekeepers who had also purchased breeding stock was formed by the Department's Senior Apiculturist, Lee Allan, under the name of Better Bees WA (BBWA). As the industry now owned the breeding stock, John soon took over the role as chairman.

Through John's highly regarded chairmanship, he soon looked for further improvements that could be made to the breeding stock. BBWA members who did not live up to John's high expectations were soon removed from the program and new members with good breeding stock and a commitment to bee breeding were invited to join.

Through John's strong leadership skills and long standing personal commitment to BBWA it is now possibly the longest bee breeding program in the southern hemisphere, if not the world today. John always offered to relinquish his role as chairman at every BBWA meeting only to be met with total silence from the members. then on nominating himself as chairman, there was a sigh of relief and applause from the members, a clear recognition of John's high standing and ability.

further enhance the program on a scientific basis John instigated the collaboritive partnership between BBWA and the University of Western Australia's Centre for Integrated Bee Research (CIBER) under Prof. Boris Baer.

This partnership not only provided financial assistance for the BBWA program but also research results to improve the BBWA program.

John has continually sought ways to improve the program's breeding stock through better standardised selection methods and uniform criteria on a more scientific basis.

More recently BBWA has expanded its membership. The quality of the breeding stock is highly regarded by all the members as evidenced by increased honey production and docility of the bees which provide a substantial economic benefit to their businesses. Local and eastern states commercial beekeepers have also benefited from the sale of breeding stock from the program.

I have no hesitation in recommending John for the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Award of Excellence, it is highly deserved.

Lee Allan - May 2018

## **Recipient of the Goodacre Award Professor Ben Oldroyd**

The Goodacre Award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Bill Goodacre. Bill provided meritorious service to the beekeeping industry.

This award has historically been recognised as the peak national award bestowed upon individuals who have equally provided significant service to the Australian beekeeping industry.

Prof. Ben has been a long time player in the beekeeping research field and actively engaged in the beekeeping scene since completing his studies in 1980. Ben is a Professor of Behavioural Genetics at the University of Sydney. He started his academic career with the completion of a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University, followed by completion of his PhD at the same university in 1984. His PhD thesis was “Genetic Improvement of Honey Bees through closed population breeding and selection”. His thesis became the cornerstone of the Australian Honey Bee Stock Improvement Program.

Prof. Ben has been particularly interested in behavioural genetics of honey bees, the evolution of social behaviour and evolution in the broader context.

Prof. Ben started his career with employment in Victorian Department of Agriculture from 1985 to 1989. During this time, amongst various projects and activities he:

- produced a study on the effect on AFB of the standard OTC treatments for the control of EFB. His team of 4 people demonstrated that OTC masked the symptoms of AFB, but had no impact on the spores of AFB. Brood would appear to be free of AFB, but eventually symptoms of the disease would reappear.
- authored a number of illustrated agriculture notes (fact sheets) on a range of beekeeping subjects.

Then Prof. Ben temporarily migrated to the USA. He worked in Baton Rouge USDA bee laboratory from 1989 until returning to Latrobe University in Australia in 1992. Ben eventually returned to Sydney University in 1995 until present, where he holds the position of Professor in the Faculty of Science.

His achievements are many, including:

- Nearly 300 peer reviewed scientific papers that have been cited 10,775 times in other scientific publications (as at 3/7/2018).
- Co-author of the authoritative book “Asian Honey Bees”.
- Author of various chapters within scientific book publications.
- Numerous RIRDC (AgriFutures) funded projects; projects of note include:
  - inherited hygienic behaviour in honey bees
  - Asian honey bee biology
  - risk assessment for the large hive beetle
  - how susceptible are Australian honey bees to varroa
- More recently, assisting with the Asian bee queen pheromone work in Townsville.

Prof. Ben was acknowledged in 2014 with the NSW Science and Engineering Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences (Ecology, Environmental, Agricultural and Organismal).

Prof. Ben and partner Madeleine Beckman lead Australia’s premier specialist bee research group, Social Insects Research Laboratory, at the University of Sydney. Prof. Ben is a rare breed, being both a world-leading researcher and an excellent communicator.

We congratulate Professor Ben Oldroyd on the receiving of this award and thank him for his years of dedication and service to the world of honey bees

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## Friends of AHBIC

*Supporting Australia's National Beekeeping Industry with a voluntary contribution*

"Friend" Category	Investment	"Friend" Category	Investment
<b>PLATINUM PLUS</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>\$ 1,000 &amp; above</b>
<b>PLATINUM</b>	<b>\$20,000 &amp; above</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>\$ 500 &amp; above</b>
<b>GOLD PLUS</b>	<b>\$ 5,000 &amp; above</b>	<b>COPPER</b>	<b>\$ 100 &amp; above</b>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>\$ 2,000 &amp; above</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>Up to \$100</b>

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

Phone: ..... Date: .....

Contribution by: **CHEQUE**: \$ ..... or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**: \$ .....

*Please return this form to AHBIC by post or email  
to ensure your contribution is recorded correctly*

**POST:** AHBIC, PO Box 4253, Raceview Qld 4305  
**EMAIL:** ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Banking  
Details



**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 Direct Deposit Reference

Please indicate YES or NO

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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Please publicise my name (as a financial contributor) in the AHBIC Newsletter

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a Tax Receipt (email preferred)

**Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.**

*It is gratefully appreciated*