



Australian Honey Bee

INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2022



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Another year has passed and our industry has shown its resilience in being able to cope with the various challenges that have presented themselves over the past 12 months.

Firstly I would like to thank the Executive for their work over that time and the members of the AHBIC Council who have participated in several teleconferences that we have conducted. The workload seems to increase each year. I would also thank our bookkeeper, Sue Bruce, for her work.

I would like to thank all of those people who are Friends of AHBIC by contributing money to the running of AHBIC. Without these people AHBIC would not function. I would encourage anyone who is not a Friend of AHBIC to consider being one. If we could receive more finances then we could employ more staff to do more work for our industry.

Unfortunately we lost our CEO, Helen Goodall, as she received an offer from a previous employer she could not refuse. My thanks to Danny Le Feuvre who has been our acting CEO. He has done a good job in keeping up with our correspondence, producing papers for various Departments and people plus the other jobs that go with the CEO role. As I write this the Executive are considering applications received through an agency for selecting our next CEO.

Some of the issues dealt with during the year are:-

- With **imported beeswax** AHBIC had lodged a complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). They did follow up with one company but there is still no way of having imported beeswax tested at the present time. Some good news is that AHBIC has been granted a seat on the ACCC Agriculture Consultative Committee (AgCC) for a two-year term covering 2022 and 2023. So AHBIC can use this opportunity to raise this testing issue.
- AHBIC was again party to a **working group** which met to look at making sure that hives could move onto almond pollination without any problems. There were many rules imposed by State Governments re Covid testing etc. but the working group was able to make sure that the beekeepers affected had the necessary information to move those hives in. Thanks to the Victorian Department who convened the working group and hosted the meetings and also a big shout out to the various State beekeeping organizations who provide information to the working group and made sure their beekeepers had the correct information. Hopefully this year that working group will not be needed.
- In the **biosecurity** space we had an incursion of *Apis florea*, the dwarf honey bee, in Western Australia and an interception of *florea* in Melbourne. In both cases the bees have been destroyed. These events made our submission on the Hitchhiker draft paper more pressing as these bees should have been picked up at the port of embarkation. We asked for better inspections at the port of embarkation so that we stop these pests being loaded on board the ship rather than relying on us picking them up when they arrive in Australia.

- Our work on **Harmonisation** of movements between States, where possible, in line with our industry 5 zone system, is progressing slowly. Plans are being made for a trial incorporating several beekeepers to look at being able to provide self-certification for interstate movement, where allowed, instead of having to get certification from State Apiary Officers. There would be several provisions on this including that beekeepers are adhering to the Biosecurity Code of Practice and can show this to be the case.
- Another big step forward has been the development of the **Communications Plan** with BlueHill PR and Honey and Fox. This work was funded by AgriFutures from a Federal Government grant. So far a Facebook page, twitter and Instagram accounts have been set up. Several press releases have prepared and released to the media. Another part of the grant has been able to be used for the Australian Beekeeper Award. Congratulations to the State finalists who attend a two day workshop in Brisbane which I hear was well received. The winner will be announced at the Congress dinner in Sydney.
- BlueHill are also running a 100% eat Australian honey under the title of **"Home Sweet Home"**. We were able to obtain honey from various packers and beekeeper/packers to use as the prize. Thank you to those who provided the honey. There is a great range of varieties and we hope that as we use them in the publicity of the competition the public will see what is out there and also encourage them to eat 100% Australian honey.
- The 4th Australian **Bee Congress** is being held in Sydney from 8-11 June 2022. From when the decision to hold the Congress was made to the holding of the Congress did not give a lot of lead time. There is a Sub-committee that has been working very hard to put the Congress together and my thanks to those members for the hard work they have performed.
- One pleasing aspect of this job was to be able to work with the Australian Mint on the development of the \$2 coin to **celebrate 200 years** since the successful introduction of honey bees to Australia i.e.1822. Thanks to Therese Kershaw for the idea. The coin was very well received by numismatics (coin collectors) and the coin sold out very quickly.
- This year AHBIC put in submissions to the **Hitchhikers** draft paper and the National Biosecurity Strategy.
- The **National Bee Pest Surveillance Program** was put in place on 1 January 2022 for another 3 years. The National Bee Biosecurity Plan and the Industry Biosecurity Plan are being reviewed. The Biosecurity Online Training is now free to all beekeepers.
- AHBIC continues to lobby for greater than the 5% inspection of **imported honey**. Also AHBIC is pushing for targeted testing where a product is coming in at a ridiculously low price. Testing of a product from India showed that it was adulterated and complaints have been lodged with the ACCC and the Health Department in Queensland.
- AHBIC is still advocating for the development of **tests for honey** that will be recognized by Departments and the ACCC. When this is in place then AHBIC is able to have honey tested to that protocol and pass on the results to the various authorities knowing that there could be a prosecution as the test is recognized. Currently tests such as the NMR are not recognized.

- AHBIC has applied to the **APVMA** for registration of petrol to euthanise bees that are to be destroyed because they have American foulbrood. We have also applied for the registration of 5% copper naphthenate to treat beekeeping equipment and also applied for renewal of the current registration of 2% copper naphthenate.
- As a final plea can I ask all to consider becoming a **Friend of AHBIC**. AHBIC is funded by these voluntary contributions that make it possible for AHBIC to carry out the job it does on behalf of all the industry. Presently it is the faithful few who are contributing and I thank them for that. All beekeepers benefit from their contributions. We have some that contact AHBIC for help and even though they are not a Friend of AHBIC, AHBIC does not say they will not do it because you are not a Friend. AHBIC could do a lot more work if there was more funding to allow for the employment of extra staff. Over to you to become a Friend of AHBIC if you are not one already.

This will be last report as Chair of AHBIC. Stephen Targett will be your next Chair and I know that Stephen will do a good job. Again I would encourage all beekeepers to become Friends of AHBIC.

Firstly I would like to thank Helen Goodall for all the work she had completed prior to me temporarily stepping in the role. It has been great to see the work Helen had done over her tenure come to fruition over the last few months.

It has been a busy 5 months with a steep learning curve for me. The role has been incredibly busy with the AgriFutures funded communications project and helping organise the congress consuming a significant amount of time. In addition I have managed to keep AHBIC in a 'business as usual' phase without too many disruptions.

AHBIC has a new website which was launched mid-May and whilst it is an improvement on the last website still requires some work in populating it with information and will be a work in progress for a while. Significantly the new website will mean we are able to manage uploading and modifying content in-house. This should result in more timely information uploaded as needed. The new website will also become the platform for the new newsletter format. News snippets will be uploaded throughout the month and automatically collated at the end of month and sent to the mailing list. This will replace the mailchimp server and hopefully reduce newsletters ending up in the spam folder.

The inaugural beekeeper of the year award has been run and won, with each state finalist participating in a 2 day workshop. Reports received from the participants demonstrated it has been a highly valuable exercise. There has been many learnings from running the award for the first time which will be reflected upon and implemented for the next award.

We had a great response to the Congress Scholarships with the final 5 recipients receiving a bursary to travel to the congress. This scholarship program was enabled again by AgriFutures funding.

Over the last few months I have written many government submissions and been heavily engaged with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on many issues. At the top of the list for discussion with the department has been imported honey and working on potential solutions. We have also had discussions around biosecurity, pollination security and briefed them on many of our other issues.

I have enjoyed my brief stint in the role and look forward to helping AHBIC in whatever capacity it might be moving forward.

New South Wales Apiarists Association

Report - Steve Cunial, Retiring President



Well just like that another year has passed. Generally, it has been a better production year, with La Nina hanging around and providing moisture. Unfortunately for beekeepers in Northern NSW, she has been a little too generous. With reports of thousands of hive losses due to flooding and then the severity of SHB which have relished the favourable conditions. SHB has affected hives all down the coast and I'm hearing of damage inland where they haven't previously been a problem.

The flooding has caused ongoing biosecurity problems with unbranded hives washing up and they have been difficult to reunite with their owners. The NSWAA have worked closely with the NSW DPI in trying to resolve these issues.

Your Executive have been extremely busy. Holding meetings in Bathurst, Tocal and most recently in Tamworth.

The Tamworth meeting was well attended by branch representatives, with the majority of Branches represented. A huge thank you to those who attended and took time out of their busy schedules. It allowed the Executive and the representatives to interact and hear what the main concerns are. We reviewed the Strategic plan and highlighted areas that were tracking well and others that need improvement. Nick Geoghegan and Alex Russell from NSW DPI attended to discuss BPASS. I thank them for their attendance and their willingness to hear our members concerns regarding the system and how improvements can be made.

Meetings have been held with Government agencies with regards to Resources and Biosecurity. Your Executive continues to push for improvements in these areas. A big thank you to Brian Woolfe (Biosecurity) and Steve Fuller (Resources) who have championed these issues. With the easing of Covid restriction the Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) was able to return to holding a face-to-face meeting in Sydney. The State Advisory Group (SAG) has been wound up and rolled into the BIBCC. I would like to thank Casey Cooper and David Mumford for representing the NSWAA on the SAG committee and their contributions to it.

After a two-year absence due to Covid we were able to return to Honeyland at the Sydney Royal Easter show. We had concerns after being moved from the high traffic area in the Woolworths Dome to Shed 5 with the arts and crafts and cut flowers. I'm extremely happy to advise that it has been an overwhelming success! Show goers were very happy to see us back, they were provided with honey sampling and great bee demonstrations in the BEE-ZEEBO. An Executive member was present at the show on most days. We were able to help promote Australian honey and the value of honey bees to the general public, along with all the wonderful volunteers. Smaller sizes of honey sold out with only some larger containers left over. A huge thank you to Debbie Porter our Honeyland coordinator for her tireless work in what has been a very trying year for her. To Mal Porter who just does whatever needs doing, whether it's the use of his truck, transporting honey and storing equipment a huge thank you. Also, to Ray Hull who is the Executive member responsible for overseeing Honeyland. One of the main reasons for Honeyland's success this year was the overwhelming support of our members, the donation of honey and the volunteers at the show. Also, to the members who supplied the bees for the live display.

During the year we upgraded the NSWAA Website and whilst it's still a work in progress it is working much better. It is making it easier to book events online and allowing us to showcase our sponsors and partners.

I would like to acknowledge the work that Therese Kershaw puts into the industry from helping with finances to her work on AHBIC, for organising sponsors and trade show partners amongst many other activities to benefit the industry. Always adding some sparkle. Thank You Therese!

Also, thanks to Vikki Bingley who quietly but efficiently works away behind the scenes as the Editor of the Honey Bee News.

It has generally been a productive honey season in NSW, with the wetter than average weather helping to produce honey throughout most of the season. Early indications for next season are promising. Most packers are holding large stocks of honey which have put downward pressure on honey prices. Some beekeepers are having trouble moving ground flora honey including canola. This will create a dilemma with large plantings of canola and good rainfall promising a large canola crop. The demand for hives for the almond pollination continue to grow, with Beekeepers having decisions to make with the current high fuel prices impacting on the viability of almond pollination, particularly for those travelling large distances.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Executive and cherish the friendships and acquaintances that I have made. I wish the new executive all the best going forward and ask that all members to support those who volunteer their time and efforts for the betterment of the industry.

Victorian Apiarists Association Report

- Phil McPherson, President



Well how things change from year to year. After last year's great results [production wise] and the above average rainfall across most of the state setting the scene for another good year, little has eventuated for the majority of our flowering eucalypts. Some good honey was produced in the North Western Mallee country but reports indicated that not all beekeepers got results. The relatively wet and humid conditions throughout the year may have been the cause. Is this a sign of the future as climate change starts to have an effect on the environment.

As an organization we have had to deal with a number of issues throughout the year. Paramount to these is the matter relating to our financial position at the end of last year. The financial sub-committee has worked diligently on this issue and have with the assistance of our auditor and treasurer gotten things back on track. The VAA Executive have approved a [Financial Policy and Procedures] document which was a recommendation of the Auditor.

Once again last year due to Covid we have had to cancel our conference as well as the cancellation of the Royal Melbourne Show display. This has put an enormous amount of pressure on our finances as you will see in the Financial Statement. With a bit of luck and cautious optimism I hope those times are behind us.

Another important issue that has taken a considerable amount of time to get presented for approval at our AGM was the new Constitution. The new Constitution has been formulated from the old Constitution with all the requirements to ensure that it complies with the act and meets the requirements of the VAA membership.

[Apiculture on Public Lands Engagement Group] has been a disappointing forum for the VAA to be involved in this year, as we have had continual delays and postponements from Parks / DELWP participants all year. The ongoing bee site audit is still ongoing with no clear decision making process. This on top of all the work put in by our industry representatives' to the Regional Forest Agreement to find we are afforded little recognition of the important contribution our industry makes to the State's economy.

On a brighter note it is pleasing to see Poli-technic successful in being able to establish [with assistance from the Industry] a Cert 3 in Beekeeping to develop qualified skills in our workforce. This course should be ready for enrolment later in the year after a panel has formulated the curriculum. This will be based in outer Melbourne to service outer reaches of the S.E. of Australia.

A panel of VAA Members have been working with the Dept of Agriculture in relation to developing a Resilience Program for the Agricultural Industry. This is a program being implemented across all Agricultural Industries to ensure that they have the tools to cope with changing, climate, production inputs, OHS requirements, Bio-security needs, customer satisfaction and Government Interaction to support our Industry. It is hoped that beekeepers will see this program as a tool to be used in their business planning. A uniform program across Australia would be a great benefit to our Industry.

It would be fair to say that it has not been an easy year with Covid still causing problems despite a vaccination program. In the last year or so we have had to adapt to a whole new way of living and working. I can see this continuing and we as an Organisation are going to have to change too or we will become irrelevant. A recommendation to employ a paid CEO has been adopted but implementing this move is a massive challenge which will require considerable change to the way we operate. We need to bring all beekeepers in Victoria together under one united organization to represent our Industry and passion.

To close I would like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for his dedication and hard work for our Industry not only in Victoria but also interstate and In doing so wish our Senior Apiary Officer Joe Riordan all the best in his retirement, Thanks Joe. Also pass on our states appreciation to Trevor Weatherhead for his dedicated service as Chairman and wish him well for his future

Despite the many challenges we face in this industry I ask all beekeepers large or small across Victoria to come together to better manage their Industry through our Association.

Queensland Beekeepers Association

Report - Management Committee



There has been a great deal of activity in the Queensland Beekeeping industry over the past 12 months with our state executive being kept busy across multiple demanding issues. The following is a brief overview of our activities and achievements over the 2021/22 year.

2021 QBA State Conference and Open Day

The QBA conference held at Southport in June 2021 was well attended, the venue allowed for a trade show that was well received. Thanks to all of the Sponsors and Exhibitors for their continued Support. The Open Day/Field Day hosted by the Brisbane Branch was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all on the day. I would like to thank the Brisbane Branch and all of the volunteers for their efforts to coordinate this event for industry.

QBA and the Queensland State Government

Throughout the year the QBA has met with numerous government Departments on a range of matters. From Biosecurity to Native title, from Resources Access to Climate Policy the QBA has taken advantage of every opportunity to engage with Government. In May the QBA was invited by Minister Mark Furner to host a celebration of World Bee Day at Queensland Parliament. This event provided the opportunity for the QBA to continue to engage and educate members of Parliament about our industry. The event was well attended and well received by members of both sides of politics.

COVID-19 and Beekeeping Operations

The later part of 2021 saw yet another hard border closure of Queensland due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the work of the QBA State secretary Jo Martin was vital in keeping members informed and up to date with the changes and benefitted much of the beekeeping operations up and down the east coast of Australia. It is with relief we saw the end to this component of the QBA's work and we have now come to live with the pandemic and its related supply chain and staffing challenges.

Ekka 2021 – Royal Queensland Show

As a result of the Covid Pandemic the EKKA was cancelled last minute. A great deal of the setting up was completed and honey was on route when the decision was finally made. The efforts of all those involved is always greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Adrian Jones and Ray Goldsworthy for their efforts and to all those who volunteered. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone that would be interested in being involved to reach out, we are always in need of more helpers. This is not only a great financial opportunity for the QBA but it an excellent opportunity for the industry to educate consumers and promote Australian Honey.

Floods and Continuing Wet Weather

The prevailing weather patterns that have been experienced in Queensland particularly over Summer and into Autumn are certainly unrecognisable to that of the previous few years. Higher than average rainfall and several different flooding events have caused many different challenges, whilst the outlook for our floral resources are greatly improved going forwards our thoughts remain with those who have experienced losses from these conditions. The QBA has worked tirelessly to try and assist any beekeepers in need.

By working closely with the State Government, the QBA provided representation to the Department of Agriculture and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority enabling financial assistance measures to be delivered through QRIDA. Many impacted beekeepers have now completed applications for assistance with funds starting to be made available. of Dominic McGann's calibre, experience, and wisdom giving much of his time to this matter.

Nature Conservation Act 2022 – Access to National Park Apiary Sites

Continued access to floral resources, particularly in National Parks has continued to be a major focus of the QBA over the past year. The Queensland Government has delivered on their commitment from the 2020 Election to provide a 20-year extension to access of National Park apiary sites. The QBA took all opportunity to be involved in the parliamentary process which saw a wide range of submissions from beekeepers and pollination dependent industries in support of the Bill. The QBA attended all briefings and hearings of the parliamentary committee as well as hosting members of the committee on an apiary site tour. It is hoped that the legislation will pass sometime in the near future providing relief for the beekeeping Industry.

Biosecurity Consultations

Biosecurity remains a key area of focus of the QBA. The QBA management committee has continued to hold regular discussions with Biosecurity Queensland on a range of issues. We have also participated in discussions with relation the National Biosecurity Strategy. Already a number of matters are being progressed with the department and we look forward to communicating these achievements with industry in due course.

Increased Cost of Productions

Supply chain issues, ongoing covid disruptions and increased input costs have all put pressure on the commercial sector. Packers holding large volumes of honey and challenging market conditions has also placed additions stress on the industry. We hope for these conditions to ease going forward. The QBA continues to voice these issues to influencers and policy makers in an endeavour to create awareness of the immediate challenges faced by our members.

Communication with Members and Stakeholders

In the past 12 months the QBA has begun to publish a seasonal update. Given the works being undertaken by the QBA a Newsletter had not been published for some time. We have recognised that this is a need to keep members informed with the happens in the organisation. We hope that this has been a valuable exercise and intend to continue this communication going forward.

Thanks to our Committee, State Secretary, Branch Executives, Members and Sponsors

Finally, I would like to thank the Members of the Management Committee, State Secretary and Branch Executives for there efforts over the past 12 months. It has been no easy journey to maintain the constant and increasing level of engagement and consultation with Government, Stakeholders and the greater community however our efforts continue to reward the association and greater Queensland beekeeping community.

I would like to also acknowledge our 2021 sponsors for their contributions and support in assisting the QBA to build and deliver on its strong reliable reputation as a key advocate for beekeeping in Queensland.

Tasmanian Beekeeper's Association

Report - Lindsay Bourke, President



The Tasmanian Beekeepers association (TBA), is a member of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), and is the peak industry body for beekeeping in Tasmania.

Tasmania produced 750 tonnes of honey this year. Most producers are reporting that they were 20% to 40% down on average.

State Forest

Of all states Tasmania is the most dependent on public forests. Our beekeepers work very closely with the land managers of these public forests, these include PARKS, STT, HYDRO and PRIVATE FORESTS. Without this partnership Tasmania would not have a beekeeping industry. Up to 60% to 90% of all honey produced in Tasmania comes from these West Coast rainforests.

Lease Renewals

We beekeepers are concerned about our previous 10-year agreements with STT (they were handed back to Parks a few years ago) and they are now due to be renewed. We had 10-year licences before, but they are only going to be renewed for six years in the future. TBA has had 5 meetings on our lease renewal, and it is ongoing.

Compulsory Registration of Bee Hives

Tasmania was the last man standing with compulsory registration of beehives. Now after many years of lobbying this is going to become compulsory. This will give us better knowledge of where all the beehives are and if an incursion comes, it will give us a better chance of dealing with it. The TBA is just putting in a final report about the proposed conditions of registration

APIARY RECONSTRUCTION FUND

Two rounds of the apiary reconstruction fund have been granted and the third one is going to be called for in September. This will most likely be the last chance for beekeepers to regain access to their bee sites, thank you to our Tasmanian State Government for their support.

R A T HONEY BEE TESTS

The TBA industry disease committee have purchased RAT tests for Honey bees. These will be distributed at our AGM, our BBO officer, Karla Williams will demonstrate how to apply the RAT test for bees on the Saturday of our conference

Live BEE exports

Well done Tasmania, 15 pellets of live bees have been sent to Canada to help the Canadian beekeepers get their numbers up after the huge decline in numbers this winter because of Varroa mite.

Honey sales

Tasmania and Australia are awash with honey coming into our country from elsewhere in the world. We normally produce 16,000 to 20,000 tonnes a year, and this year we have imported 8000 tonnes as well. No wonder all producers have honey still in their sheds, 1,500 tonnes of this honey came from NZ without any checks or balances.

The leatherwood Project

Conducted at the university of Tasmania is coming to a conclusion and the report will be given by Dr Sandra Garland at our AGM.

New Agriculture Minister

We welcome our new Tasmanian Agriculture Minister, Jo Palmer, who is going to open our conference in May. We thank our past Minister for Agriculture Guy Barnett, who is a great supporter of our industry and wish him well in his new portfolios.

Manuka Win

It's about time the world realises that Australia has the best manuka honey in the world. New Zealand have been trying to convince the world that manuka honey only comes from New Zealand. Tasmania has the same variety of manuka as NZ, *Leptospermum Scoparium* which is a pretty good Manuka. Australia also have the wonderful manuka honey that comes from NSW and Queensland, *Leptospermum Polygalifolium* honey which has the highest activity for manuka honey in the world. NZ can't go anywhere near that. The whole world realised that was just a try on. To try and get control of the world prices for Manuka Honey, but people aren't fools, they won't fall for that little trap. NZ should realise false reporting is bad for all honey sales. We should be working together to promote Manuka but NZ has declined Australia's offer to work collectively.

A number of people helped us, especially Senator Eric Abetz who met us in his office in Canberra before taking us to the Trade Minister Dan Tehan, so we could work out a strategy how to combat NZ's false claims. Thank you to the Australian government who are helping us financially, we had no possible way of financing this Intellectual Property case in Britain without help from our Australian government. Well done everybody who helped us achieve this positive win!

B- Qual

Is Australia's honey bee quality assurance programme and most of Australia's premium honey production is produced under this quality assurance however it is quite expensive and sometimes prohibitive for smaller beekeepers. Hats off to Don Muir and the B-Qual board who have come up with **B-Trace**, a quality assurance system for smaller beekeepers. Well done I'm looking forward to hearing his report at our AGM.

AHBIC restructure

A big thank you to chairman Trevor Weatherhead and the AHBIC executive who realise that we have to make some drastic changes with our organisation. We look forward to seeing the results.

AHBIC CEO (Danny Le Feuvre) he's doing an excellent job for us the Australian beekeepers and he has written a great report to Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment (DAWE), listing all the important things that our beekeeping industry needs to get done including honey coming only one way to Australia from NZ and cheap honey coming to Australia from other parts of the world. Thank you, Danny. Keep up the good work.

South Australian Apiarists' Association Report

– Ian Zadow, President



The past year has flown by and has been a reasonable honey season for most mainland beekeepers but another poor season for Kangaroo Island beekeepers with limited resources still as result of the 2020 bushfires. It has been a busy year for the SAAA.

The first issue that I would like to report on is the PIRSA LER(Local Economic Recovery) Project. This project was initiated by the 20/21 executive who were successful with obtaining a grant in partnership with PIRSA to help with Local Economic Recovery after the recent bushfires.

A contract was signed with PIRSA in May for the SAAA to run three projects from this grant. The 20/21 executive had decided to subcontract these three projects out to two subcontractors and at the time of the last Conference and AGM were amid setting up contracts with them. These three projects were outlined at last year's Conference.

The incoming executive then had to do their due diligence on this project to understand the details of the project. While doing their due diligence, members of the executive became aware that there was legal advice that had not been followed in relation to conflicts of interest and disclosure of interests of these subcontractors to the membership at last year's AGM. Because of this failure to follow the legal advice, the association was put at risk of heavy fines or legal proceedings for failure to comply with the association's incorporations act. To proceed forward the executive moved to get an independent Legal opinion from Wallman's Lawyers on how best to address the issue.

The two subcontractors then withdrew their intent to continue with the projects.

We have been working with PIRSA throughout the year to reassess and make amendments to the projects so they can still be delivered and achieve similar outcomes. There has been a time extension to the grants and there will be an update for members at the conference.

We had series of resignations from the executive who included executive members Martin Gilbert, Les Crane, Simon Peacock, Josh Kennett, and Danny LeFeuvre. We also had the resignation of Secretary Jenny McCormick and Treasurer Tom Hampton. I would like to thank these people for their time and efforts for the association and industry. The executive has since appointed Carolyn Smith as an executive member, Miranda Tenney as Secretary and Michelle Cotton as Treasurer.

At last year's conference a motion was moved to develop policy and procedures for governance and convention of the Association. The policy and procedures subcommittee was formed to undertake this work and has been very busy with undertaking this task. It has developed a Code of Conduct for members and the executive, which has been circulated to members for adoption at this year's conference. The subcommittee has also developed an executive induction pack for new executive members and has also undertaken a review of the Constitution, which was a recommendation of the Wallman's legal advice, the amendments to the constitution has been circulated to members for adoption at conference. I would like to thank the members of this subcommittee for their hard work throughout the year and make a special thanks to life members Barry Pobke and John Fuss for their input and guidance.

This year we have introduced the concept of Working Groups to help spread the workload of the executive and enable people to be involved with an interest or expertise in a certain area. The Working Groups are operated under a Terms of Reference, they have two executive members, one of whom is the chair and they have up to three non- executive members who have an interest or expertise in the area and the working groups make recommendations for the executive to consider. The Working Groups that have been formed are the Education Working Group, Resources Working Group, Biosecurity Working Group and Conference Working Group.

It is pleasing to have the position of Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) filled after a long period of not having a BBO. We welcome Samantha Grund to the position and look forward to seeing her out and about assisting beekeepers with their bee biosecurity obligations. On the topic of biosecurity, the executive has begun a process with Michael Stedman to improve the equipment and training for exotic incursions such as varroa mites. We are hoping to apply for a grant to purchase exotic surveillance equipment and a response trailer, so the state is better prepared for any future exotic incursions. It is also envisaged to plan training sessions for industry and government personnel in preparedness for future exotic incursions.

It is great news that we now have a training provider in SA to deliver the Certificate III in Beekeeping. After more than three years of hard work in the development, Bee Prepared Training & Development is now an approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to provide this training for the industry. They are approved and established to deliver Certificate III in Beekeeping and Basic Skills set training and are running a pilot course of each course this year. The SAAA has supported the development of this RTO.

For many years there has been a need to develop a Fire Code of Practice for our industry. This year one has been developed by the SAAA in consultation with the SA Country Fire Service and the Beekeepers' Society of SA (BSSA)

The CFS has advised that they are no longer regulating industry fires codes of practice and recommend that industry adopt them with a view to industry self-regulation. The Apiary Fire Code of Practice will be put before the membership for adoption as a guideline for beekeepers. The BSSA are also working towards adopting the code.

At last year's conference there was a motion passed to review the Apiary Alliance of South Australia (AASA) Terms of Reference. The AASA is the conduit between the SAAA and BSSA to provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries. We have worked with the BSSA during the year to review the Terms of Reference and they have been circulated for adoption at Conference. The BSSA are also working towards adopting them as well.

To honour the legacy of Linton Briggs' dedication to the Australian beekeeping industry and his commitment to mentoring and supporting others, the Wheen Bee Foundation has established the Linton Briggs Advancing Apiculture Fund. The first project to be funded is the 2022 Board Effectiveness Training.

The SAAA applied for and was successful in our application to be funded for the 2022 Board Effectiveness Training. This is a tailored workshop being held in Sydney in June, with follow up coaching sessions run by Dr Judith MacCormick a specialist board advisor. The workshop will enable individual state beekeeping association committees to come together to improve their organisational effectiveness and impact through sharpening the focus on their organisation's strategic goals.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the executive members for their support and efforts throughout the year. I would like to thank those members who took up a position on our Working Groups this year to help share the workload outside the executive. A big thankyou goes to Jack Bricknell for taking on the role of editor of the Buzz, he has taken on a big job and done an amazing job. I would also like to thank Lynda Lutze for taking on the role of public officer and for her persistence on getting the Australian Business Register details corrected and avoided the Association from paying fines for it being so far out of date.

I would like to make a special thankyou to Miranda Tenney for taking on the role of Secretary and the huge amount of work she has put into the job and also to Michelle Cotton for taking on the role of Treasurer and the extra effort she has put into helping run our Association.

Bee Industry Council of WA

Report - Brendon Fewster, Chair



Beekeepers in the West had an average year with a good wildflower, Jarrah and Red gum flow, which keeps our bees healthy and beekeepers happy! The long and hot summer saw flowers going until late into the season, with beekeeper settling their bees in their winter quarters later than usual.

Here a few snapshots of our Industry year:

Inward:

Current board members:

Brendon Fewster	Chair
John McLoughlin	Director
Julie Dinsdale	Director
Kim Fewster	Director
Leilani Leyland	Director
Mathew Welch	Vice-Chair
Mikey Cernotta	Director
Shane McLinden	Director

Office term ends:

2022
2023
2022
2022 / Independent Director
2022 / Independent Director
2024
2024
2023

Christine Spycher	Secretary
Tristan Campbell	Treasurer

The Annual General Meeting 2022 will hold place on Friday, 23rd September.

- BICWA successfully adopted the new Constitution, changing from an organisation membership only to allowing everyone interested in industry to become a member.
- Membership opened in January and the board accepted until the end of May 2022 a total of 69 beekeeper members and 4 Friends of BICWA. WA Farmers Beekeepers Section, WA Apiarists' Society (WAAS) and WA Beekeepers Association (WABA) remain as Alliance Partners until the AGM 2022.
- Registered beekeeper numbers in WA:

2021/22	beekeepers	hives
Jul-21	4010	52212
May-22	4412	53368
growths	402	1156



- Since August 2021, BICWA has operated in four sub-committees, each chaired by a board member, which reports back to the monthly board meeting. These sub-committees are: Research & Adoption / Resource & Biosecurity / Finance & Growth / Communication & Development. Operation in these four committees is beneficial for everyone involved and supports growing into a professionally run organisation.
- The Agriculture Producers Committee (APC), Beekeeper Sections accepts BICWAs application to increase the Fee for Service Functions, with which Industry can provide additional services to beekeepers/growers. The APC started the long wired process. We can expect an outcome by the end 2023.
- The WA industry looks into testing of imported honey, often found cheaply priced on supermarket shelves. The BICWA board supports the idea of random honey testing to declare honey quality and to build consumer awareness.
- Unfortunately, due to health and travel concerns, the BICWA Conference was cancelled again - for the 3rd year in a row. Nevertheless, the 2023 event is expected to excite everyone!
- BICWA has hosted a variety of events, a total of 13, engaging with its industry members, stakeholders and wider community.

Outward:

- **The Forest Management Plan (FMP) 2024 - 2033** – members of the Resource & Biosecurity sub-committee attended the pre-elementary discussions for the FMP 2024-2033. Feedback provided by industry stakeholders was taken into consideration and will be reflected in the DRAFT FMP 2024 – 2033, which is released for public comments in July/August 2022.
- Industry celebrates the Government announcement to stop logging of old growth forests from 2024.
- **Red Dwarf Asian Honey bee incursion December 2021** – With the swift action of the Department for Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), consultation with industry, and the help of beekeepers and the general public, the reported incident was declared cleared
- **Prescribed Burning planning** - Industry representatives liaise with the Department for Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA) Officers on a regularly. We hope to see more deferred burns, especially in high valued crop areas.
- **Department for Biosecurity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA)** - The new apiary site platform is delayed and expected to launch in term three 2022. This software will simplify site application procedures and provide the possibility for site trading among beekeepers.

- **Site authorities and clearing applications** – New regulations by the Department for Water, Environment and Regulations (DWER) launch in July 2022 and will see changes in site authority, including the clearing application process. The Department, together with BICWA starts discussions to simplify the application process for beekeepers.
- BICWA continues to have a strong relationship with its research partners ChemCentre and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Honey Bee Products (HBP). The CRC project comes to an end by 30.06.2022, with all projects expected to finish. It has been an excellent opportunity for the Bee Industry in WA and a fantastic collaboration with Dr Liz Barbour, CEO, and her dedicated research team.

I take this opportunity to thank all BICWA board members for last year commitment! We have achieved a main goal of implementing the Constitution and following due process to engage a BICWA CEO, running a prosperous, growing and exciting Bee Industry. So we are going onwards and upwards into the next season!

Executive Summary

- 5,000 members
- 33 affiliated clubs
- Name change to Amateur Beekeepers Australia
- Memberships have more than doubled since 2018
- 9 new clubs affiliated since 2018
- Membership fees halved since 2018
- Public & Products Insurance option reduced to \$15 p/a
- Free personal accident insurance introduced
- 5,000 AFB diagnosis kits and BOLT instructions distributed directly to members
- Scope and scale of ABA's work extended

Recreational beekeeping continued its strong growth in 2021/22, attracting many new and enthusiastic beekeepers. As a hobby to pursue at home during times of COVID lockdown, and as an activity that links Australians to their environment, their food supply and their community, recreational beekeeping consistently captured the public imagination in the past 12 months.

Across Australia, more than 35,000 people are now registered as recreational beekeepers. Amateur Beekeepers Australia finishes the year with nearly 5,000 members belonging to 33 affiliated clubs, chiefly in NSW, and also in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

In March, members voted overwhelmingly to change the working name of the ABA (from Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW) to Amateur Beekeepers Australia to reflect this growing and widening membership base.

The ABA's 2020/21 AGM was held via Zoom In March 2022, a first for the organisation and, due to COVID restrictions, its first AGM since 2019. While this did allow any member to participate without the need for lengthy travel, it also meant that the ABA was unable to hold its hotly contested interclub competition, the Colonel Pulling Competition (named after the founder of the ABA).

Our clubs have spent recent times grappling with video-conferencing technology, QR codes, masks and hand sanitiser. Meetings and all-important hands-on training have triumphed when health rules, floods and soggy conditions have allowed. As a result of COVID-19 lockdowns, our members now have a clearer understanding of , whether they are indulging in a hobby, running a business or providing a public service, and have gained knowledge of LGA boundaries. Only our bees have carried on oblivious to our human health crisis, whilst they struggle through bushfire, drought, flood, and finally a chance to recover over a humid La Niña summer.

Through all of this our executive team has continued to support the association as our **membership has more than doubled** from 2300 members at the end of 2018.

Since its last AGM, the ABA has welcomed 9 new clubs, including our first 3 from outside New South Wales:

- Albury
- Alice Springs
- Cumberland
- Far North Coast
- Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
- Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society
- Orange
- Orana
- Wagga Wagga

This growth is a testament to the enormous amount of work put in by both the ABA and our club committees to firmly establish our organisation's reputation as a peak body for recreational beekeepers, and maintain our positive relationships with government and the broader industry.

Growth of the entire organisation provides tangible benefits to individual members who have seen their ABA membership fees halved in the same timeframe as membership has doubled.



We have been able to leverage off our increased numbers to achieve greater benefits for members through bulk discounts. Notably this year, we have introduced free **Personal Accident insurance** as a standard membership benefit, and have reduced the cost of our optional members' Public and Products Liability insurance to a record low of \$15.

Our popular **membership packs** have proven to be a great vehicle to get biosecurity tools and information directly into the hands of beekeepers. This year we mailed each member an AFB diagnosis kit, complete with instructions, glass slides, mailers and forms to submit suspect samples to their relevant state testing laboratory. All members were also sent detailed printed instructions and encouragement to complete the BOLT course.

The scale and scope of work undertaken by the ABA has increased significantly:

- We have worked closely with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in NSW on ongoing biosecurity initiatives such as Sugar Shake and AFB Awareness months, and the testing of recreational beekeepers' honey for AFB. The ABA funded the supply of **sugar shake kits** to all our clubs ourselves which enabled us to include members outside of NSW for the first time.
- We have implemented an **AFB email alert system**, which notifies members when AFB is reported in their postcode area.
- We run an online enquiry service to help members and the public with bee-related issues.
- We have continued to publish our bi-monthly journal **The Amateur Beekeeper**.
- We provide **IT and administrative support to clubs** including email, club websites, and distribution of club newsletters.
- We have rebuilt the **ABA Swarm System** to allow members to instantly update their availability to collect swarms.
- We now email **insurance certificates of currency** directly to members and provide access for members to download them on demand.
- We represent recreational beekeepers nationally as a member of the **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)**.
- We are a member of the NSW **Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC)**.
- We provide **testing resources** and feedback to the DPI in the ongoing development of their beekeeper registration systems.
- We operate an **online shop** to provide low-cost biosecurity equipment and manuals to all beekeepers.

The ABA is proud of its achievements and growth, and excited to see what the future holds for our vigorously blooming association.

Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia

- Ben McKee, President

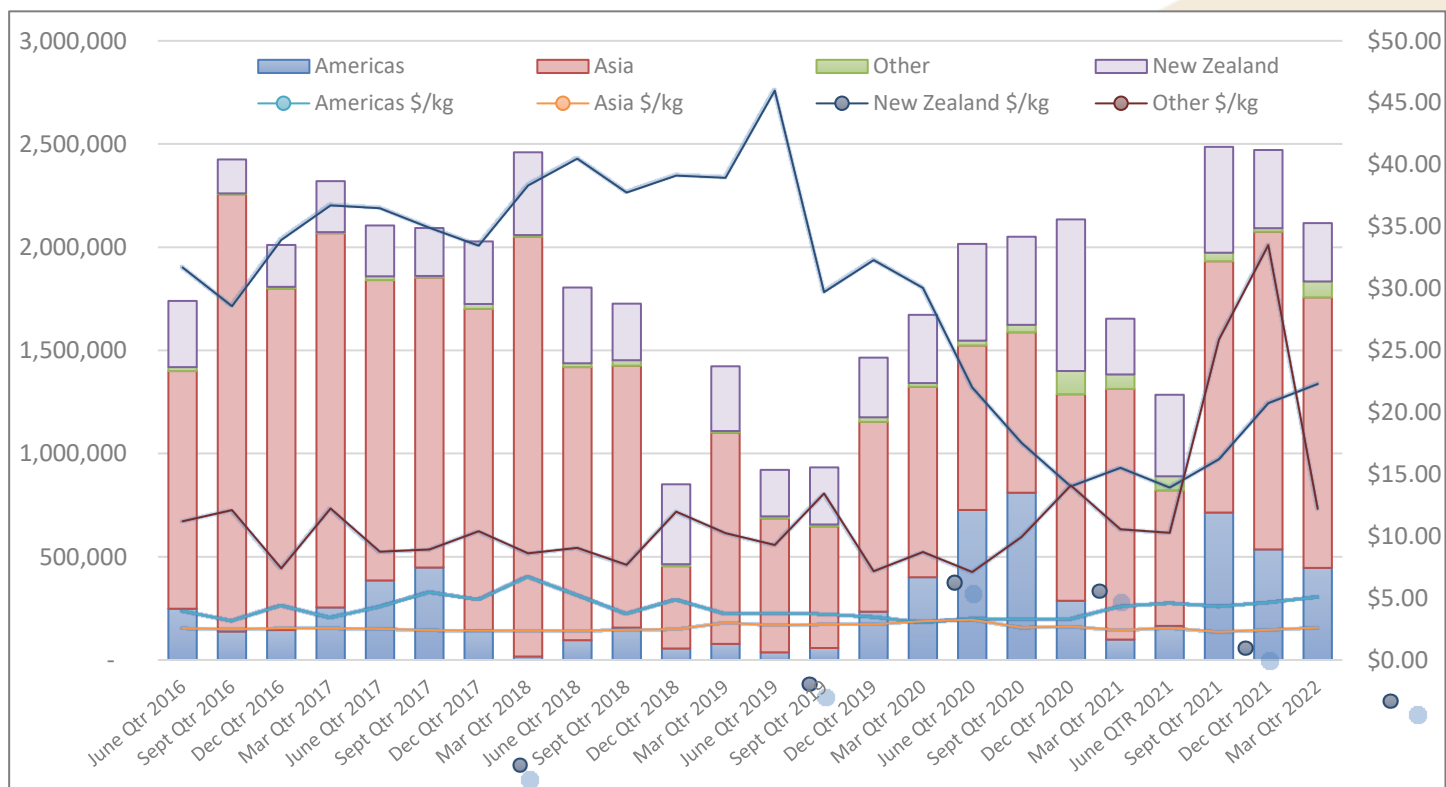
The devastating effects of the drought and fires that impacted the 2019/20 honey season is well behind us, with two consecutive above average honey seasons. This year has seen packers having access to ample honey stocks, with inventory of Australian honey growing. Whilst persisting rain is impacting honey production in the short-term, the FY22/23 is looking to be another good crop based on the budding of key flowering trees, weather permitting.

The impacts of the COVID19 virus are less evident, with some spiking in honey sales early in this calendar year. The absence of tourists, students and travel has created many business complications for Australian packers of premium honeys, such as Manuka. Geopolitical tensions with China have been problematic for honey sales, with heightened quality controls for bee diseases such as EFB resulting in shipments to China failing their customs checks and being returned. As a consequence, we are seeing a reluctance of China buyers to continue buying retail honey and packers remain cautious of shipping honey based on the risk of failed customs clearance. China has historically been the biggest export market for Australian honey, and we are seeing other markets now emerge for Australian retail honey such as North America and Japan.

Increased supply has seen Australian honey prices reduce from record high levels of the drought. Higher consumer retail prices on-shelf led to opportunistic ranging of New Zealand honeys, commonly on discount, that have taken valuable market share from Australian honeys. Hopefully, with lower Australian honey prices and the capacity to promote we will see Australian retail honeys become more competitive and reduce the market penetration of New Zealand packed honey.

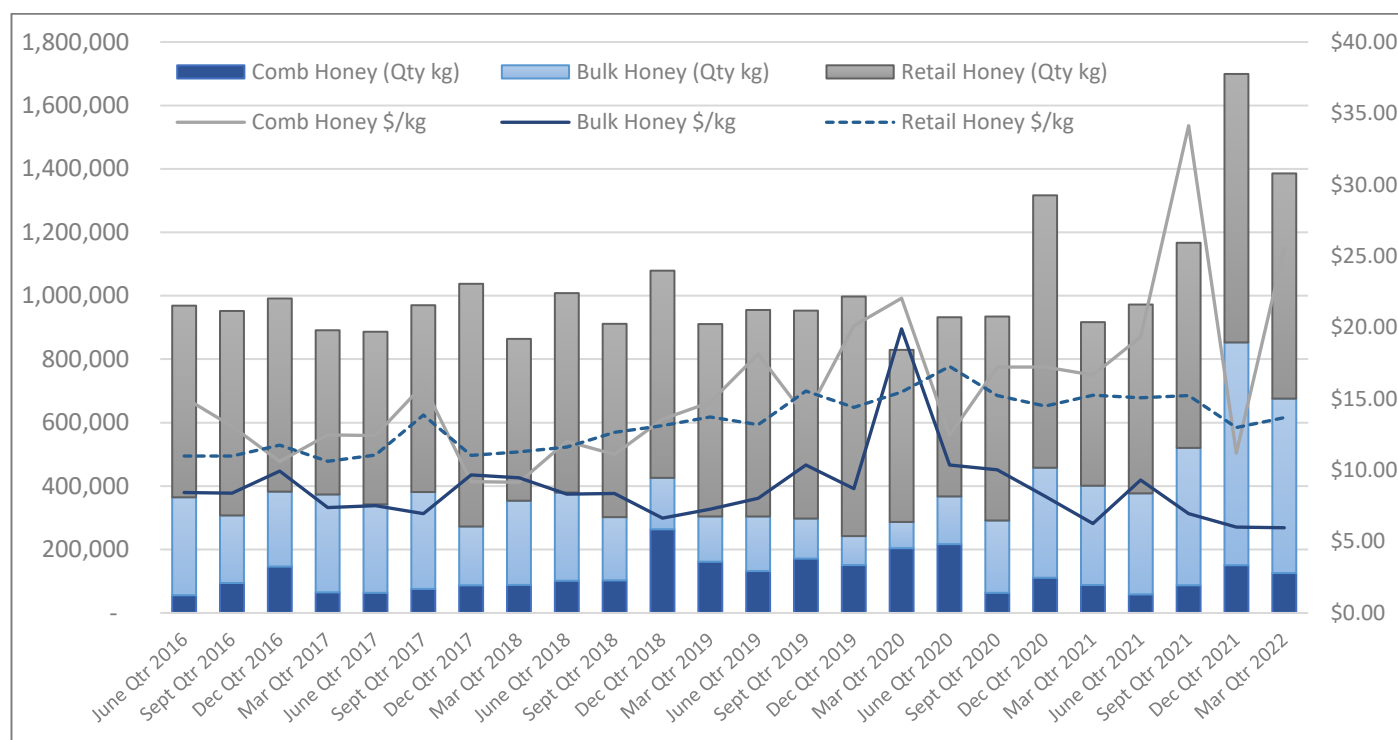
Imported honeys offering increased value continue to enter. During 2021/22, we have seen imports continue from the Americas, Asia and New Zealand (as illustrated in the graph below). Honeys from Asia, New Zealand and South America remain the dominant origins of import, as has historically been the case. It should be noted that during the last financial year we have seen a notable quantity of the imported honey re-exported to large industrial customers in Asia.

Honey Imports (kg) Over Time By Quarter (2016 – 2022): Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



e good news is that export volumes of honey from Australia have continued to increase. In recent times, bulk honey exports from Australia have increased, which may include blended honey for specific markets. The retention and growth of export markets for Australian honey is crucial to the industry's prosperity, especially as we produce greater volumes of honey. In the last 12 months, over 5,200 tonnes of honey and comb was exported from Australia at a value of over \$62 million dollars. The cost of and availability of shipping vessels and shipping containers is hampering exporters, with packers reporting shipping freight costs rising five times, especially to the Middle East and North America.

Honey Exports (kg) Over Time By Quarter (2016 – 2022): Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



The Australian retail supermarket and pharmacy segment is in value growth of 4.3% at a total market size of over \$166m (Source: IRI Data MTD to 24/04/22). The increase in category value can be attributed to rises in branded table honeys, including those from New Zealand. Pharmacy honey sales have stabilised following a decline in the previous year. In terms of volume, the picture for the Australian retail supermarket segment has improved from the previous year's decline (-6.5%) we reported, with the category in growth at 5.8% to an annual total of 10,090t, which is up 556t (Source: IRI Data MAT to 24/04/22). Volume growth is outperforming value growth, with price the main driver with increased discounting and value brands in the category. 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. It was pleasing to see AMHA oppose the New Zealand industry's trademark efforts in the UK and NZ, with a win for Australia in the UK now subject to High Court appeal. There is no decision in NZ yet from the hearing held late in 2021.

Interactions with the operations of AHBIC at *Members Meetings* has continued to be a good initiative for industry to consult, hear various opinions and communicate viewpoints. AHBIC continues to rely heavily on the financial support of only a minority of industry participants, so we would encourage all to continue to support their work and we look forward to contributing to the review of AHBIC set to proceed in 2022.

The packers and marketers of the HPMAA continue to work hard to ensure Australian beekeepers get the best return for their tireless efforts, and we are proud to market a wonderful, sustainable, natural product. Many of us are looking forward to attending the beekeeping congress in June and wish beekeepers a successful honey production season in 22/23.

Ben McKee, HPMAA President.

The Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association - Management Committee



The management committee of the AQBBA consisted of Richard Sims as President, Chris Kassebaum as Vice President, Corinne Jordan as Secretary, David Briggs as Treasurer, and Paul Reid, Stefan Lottering, Terry Brown and Jamie Baggs serving as a non-office bearing members.

In 2021-2022 AQBBA management committee focused on continuing work with Australia Post to resolve new issues due to Covid affecting the safe delivery of queens. Members were involved directly in finalizing the biosecure pathways for the importation of honey bee germplasm and Queen Bees into Australia. AQBBA continued to support the Plan Bee Queen Breeding Project through promotions and marketing to members. We provided regular communication and educational material to benefit members through our website, facebook pages and newsletters. We completed a project to make insemination supplies readily available in Australia. We commenced collecting data on Queen Bees during transport.

Australia Post

We continue to work with Australia Post to address the continued mishandling and re-directing of bees in transport which has led to significant losses for some queen producers. AHBIC is now assisting with this process. Informing members of postage practices to improve successful delivery or compensation for dead bees. Recommendations include insurance, signature on delivery, packaging types and times and GPS tracking of packages has

Thermal Tracking of Posted Queen Bees

Committee has been trailing GPS trackers placed in with queen bees transported by Australia Post. We succeeded in following packages of bees throughout their journey and intercepting mailed bees stalled in the system. Instead of being lost, delayed and arriving deceased the addition of GPS trackers resulted in positive outcomes.

They look promising as an additional tool to help prevent losses. For more detailed information I have enclosed a link to youtube recording of the online event late last year.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttYp_tIB_6Y

Biosecurity 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. This Project is now finalized and Full details of the report can be read here:

<https://www.horticulture.com.au/globalassets/laserfiche/assets/project-reports/mt18019/mt18019-final-report-complete.pdf>

The imported stock from this project is planned for release to industry through a Tender process in September 2022.

BQUAL Queen Bee Quality Standards

Queen Bee Quality Standards sent for consideration to B-QUAL for further comment and feedback has been sent to AHBIC for comment. AHBIC made extensive comments on both the original standard and our changes which we are in the process of reviewing.

Plan Bee

AQBBA is continuing in our advisory and support role mostly through promotion and marketing to members of Plan Bee Events and facilitating opportunities for education around EBV's, collection of data and evaluation of traits as Plan Bee moves into the final stages of the project.

Website

Website has been migrated across to aqbba.org.au. The new platform has enabled the website to be easily and regularly updated with relevant material for members and notification of events.

Facebook

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

Membership Class for Endorsed Queen Producer

Work commenced on a proposal for an endorsed queen producer program based around existing industry qualifications. We hope to be able to finalize this in the coming year.

Logo Update

Minor changes to the AQBBA logo were made including removal of the statement "Australian quality queens supplying the world" as this doesn't accurately reflect who we are as an organization. Other changes include a modern font and improvements to the queen bee.

Future Projects include,

- Assisting with transitioning Plan Bee to post project phase.
- Finalizing the Bqual standards,
- A membership class for certified queen producers,
- Consolidating VSH imported stock and distributing to industry.

Unfortunately, over the last year the CPAA Inc has held only 2 meetings due to covid and unforeseeable weather events severely impacting our members. This has resulted in little activity by the association.

However, we have continued our commitment to industry involvement by:

- Individuals' memberships within other associations such as Protected Cropping Australia, B-QUAL, Amateur Beekeepers Association, state associations e.g., NSWAA, QBA.
- Good working relationship with current research bodies such as Agrifutures, Hort Innovations and various universities with members actively involved in providing advice, hives and sites for research
- Researching pollination by native species
- Port surveillance program
- Continuation of financial membership of the Pollinator Stewardship Council of USA.
- Informal mentoring

Again, this year our members have been heavily involved in the pollination of the following crops: almonds, blueberries, macadamias, avocados, apples, raspberries, blackberries and others

It is worth again noting the name change occurring on May 2020 to form the CPAA Inc. Also, when the NCPA was deregistered in Western Australia, CPAA Inc became a member of AHBIC within our own right as per AHBIC AGM.

- Regional Forest Agreements: these agreements have a major review event clause; the 2019 wildfires were considered a major event and subsequently a review is taking place. I submitted a submission on behalf of our Industry, the final report is before Parliament and is due for public release shortly.
- I have continued to assist Jo Martin from the QBA in regard to the Nature Conservation and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, AHBIC provided a submission to assist the QBA in regard to this long-standing issue. Well done to Jo and the QBA for their tireless efforts!
- Bushfire recovery and restoration; there are a number of projects in this space and will be for some time, covid restrictions have hampered many of these projects, we can only hope it is not to long before these projects can get the appropriate attention. I have conducted a number of forest tours with Department Managers, the key focus was on forest restoration and achieving an objective of restoring forest functionality for all uses and values, which would then restore the value of these important floral resources to the Honeybee and Honeybee Pollination Dependent Industries.
- The Timber Industry debate continues in this region, there is hardly a week that goes by that the Media isn't covering a story about the Timber Industry. Views are very polarised with no group, other than our Industry looking at the middle ground. It just seems to be all or nothing! No real focus from any sectors looking at achieving equitable co-existence for all values and uses. Recently I conducted a tour for local councils, which was well attended and well received by the councillors. This tour provided an opportunity to educate them on the importance of these forest ecosystems for honey production, but more importantly, beehive health to deliver adequate pollination services to many agricultural businesses that depend on honeybees and ultimately what that means for food security. Everyone was appalled at the state of the forests as a result of excessive timber harvesting and then wildfire. Previously, I had not contemplated working with local government regarding public land management and the issues that face our Industry. On reflection I believe it has been a very beneficial avenue to advocate for our Industry.
- AHBIC contributed to an AgriFutures project "Security of Tenure on Public Land Bee Sites". Details will be in the Agrifutures report.
- Continuing the resource security topic, I believe the use of Special Management Zones is an option for our Industry to secure meaningful resources on every licensed bee site. The major issues for our Industry are fuel reduction burning and timber harvesting, whilst these are the major two, there are other issues that could be managed using this zoning approach.
- Management of State Forest is consistent with Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) principles. A principal strategy of ESFM is to divide State Forests into three Management Zones.
 1. **SPECIAL PROTECTION ZONE (SPZ)** is managed for conservation. It forms a network that has been designed to complement existing conservation reserves. Timber harvesting is excluded from this zone.
 2. **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE (SMZ)** is managed to conserve specific features, while catering for sustainable timber production and other utilization activities under certain conditions.
 3. **GENERAL MANAGEMENT ZONE (GMZ)** is managed for a range of uses and values, with sustainable timber production a major use.

- S.M.Z's have been applied to Bee sites in the East Gippsland F.M.A since 2007.
- S.M.Z's are a sound option to elevate the importance of the Beekeeping Industry as far as Public Land Management is concerned, particularly given the importance to food security and humanity.
- I have contributed to a number of media events and documentaries, continually advocating for our Industry's position and future generations. I have recently finished a 4-day interview and filming for Swinburne University, focusing on forest health and the many uses and values our forests provide.



V.A.A INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT GROUP TOUR INSPECTING A RECENTLY HARVESTED BEE SITE.

Goodacre Award Report

- Elizabeth Frost, Secretary/Treasurer

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

Meeting held remotely May 2022

Business:

- No nominations for The Goodacre Award were received for 2021/22. No further action was required.
- It was resolved that the term deposit be rolled over for a further 12 months with St. George Bank (Treasurer).

Expenses 2021/2022:

- No expenses 2021/22

TOTAL EXPENSES

- 2020/2021 expense of \$428.90. To be reimbursed to Treasurer E. Frost August 2022 as not claimed in August 2021. Refer to 'Goodacre Term Deposit balance and

Finances:

Term deposit (St. George)
Account number: 0308 680 698
Name: Goodacre Memorial Fund

Balance 31 May 2022	\$4,425.10
Interest paid 2021/22	\$71.42

Rollover confirmation certificate (25th August 2022)

Deposit amount:	\$4,425.10
Interest rate:	0.25 %pa
Term:	12 months
Open date:	25 th August 2022
Maturity date:	25 th August 2023

Cash held by Treasurer as at 31 May 2022: \$0.

Assets:

- Honor board and carry case



Report carried unanimously by Committee June 2022.



Much of the work of the Apimondia Executive Council has been on putting together the Program for the upcoming Apimondia Congress to be held in Turkey. Like all face to face meetings in these pandemic times there have been many challenges to solve particularly around the short time frame from which to organise the event given that it could not be held in Ufa Russia.

Please find following the official invitation from Dr [Jeff Pettis](#) - Apimondia President inviting beekeepers from around the world to join together in Istanbul. The flyer also outlines the program for your information.

The website is now live and taking registrations: www.apimondia2021.com

World Bee Day Celebrations in Rome

A virtual event was held on May 20th in Rome to celebrate World Bee Day. The theme this year was around the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems from around the world. Bee and pollinator experts and practitioners were featured from around the world with the event raising awareness of the need to protect all bee species in order to protect agricultural systems and support a healthy life and planet.

World Bee Day is another opportunity for the collaboration between Apimondia and FAO to be built upon. Dr Jeff Pettis travelled from the USA to Rome to meet FAO officials and to progress the joint FAO / Apimondia Projects. More details on the session are available from the Apimondia website

The two key Apimondia / FAO projects continue

1. Apimondia continue working with FAO to deliver four Biodiversity workshops aimed at linking regional government officials, farmers and beekeeper pollinators. Most of the workshops which were to be held in Latin America, Ghana, Philippines and North Africa have had Covid related delays and challenges. The objectives of the workshops are to help provide good agricultural practice examples which support biodiversity and pollinator health in agricultural landscapes. This is an example of Apimondia being at the table to provide expert technical information to improve agricultural landscapes for bees and beekeepers.

-
2. The second project involves linking a working group from Apimondia with FAO Animal Production Officers through the a joint working group on “Monitoring the genetic diversity of managed bees for food and agriculture”. FAO manages a system to monitor the genetic diversity of the main livestock breeds and added bees to this work. This project will slowly begin to monitor the subspecies of bees to better be able to understand bee population trends to assist better decision making globally. It is envisaged that there will be a trial data collection in up to six countries with the view to then rolling out to all countries. Apimondia is assisting the FAO Livestock Officers to work through mechanisms available for data collection options, challenges and opportunities.

Apimondia Congress 2023 - Santiago Chile

The Apimondia Executive Council continues to work with the Chilean beekeepers and the South American region in planning the 2023 congress in Chile. The local organising team are working to bring together a congress that showcases beekeeping in their region and highlights the unique aspects of their culture, products and beekeeping practices.

New Apimondia Website - check it out if you haven't

Apimondia is working to add more and more content to the Apimondia website. If you haven't had a look at it make sure you do. You can also sign up to receive the Apimondia Newsletter directly also.

<https://www.apimondia.org/>

Stay safe and well everyone.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

ABN 63 939 614 424

Audited Financial Report

for the year ended

30 April 2022

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General Account:

- ❖ Statement of Income and Expenditure
- ❖ Balance Sheet

Producer Contingency Fund:

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

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2022

2021		2022
	<u>INCOME</u>	
173,563.62	Voluntary Contributions	163,741.01
1,659.50	Interest Received	685.02
3,272.76	Membership Dues	2,727.30
8,113.64	Plant Health Australia reimbursements for Biosecurity work	6,064.55
36,328.00	Federal Government Covid Cash Flow Boost	-
57,500.00	Grant Received	-
-	Miscellaneous Income	443.85
<hr/>		
280,437.52	TOTAL INCOME	173,661.73
	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	
1,891.53	Annual Meeting Costs	500.00
2,410.00	Audit Fees	2,230.00
648.19	Apimondia Membership	1,235.71
638.50	Bank & Eway Charges	567.68
3,782.50	Bookkeeping Fees	3,343.75
393.64	Conference Attendance Costs	-
1,636.36	Insurance	1,772.73
217.27	Meeting Expenses	-
1,196.48	Office Supplies, IT Equipment	1,297.54
332.64	Postage	435.46
680.00	Registration, Lodgement and Permit Fees	731.64
3,750.00	Remuneration - Chairman	-
140,000.12	Remuneration - Executive Director/CEO	161,118.79
-	Staff Recruitment Costs	4,200.00
-	Strategic Planning Costs	5,000.00
1,071.55	Subscriptions/Memberships	926.95
139.64	Sundry Expenses	100.63
1,478.61	Telephone & Internet Costs	1,573.61
5,000.00	Training Costs	-
3,231.99	Travel Costs	5,060.87
909.09	WorkCover Insurance	909.09
784.23	Website Development & Maintenance	1,025.44
48,000.00	Grant Expenditure	-
<hr/>		
218,192.34	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	192,029.89
<hr/>		
<u>\$ 62,245.18</u>	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$ (18,368.16)</u>

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

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2022

2021		2022
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
257,634.78	Opening Balance 01/05/2021	319,879.96
<u>62,245.18</u>	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>(18,368.16)</u>
<u>\$ 319,879.96</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2022	<u>\$ 301,511.80</u>
Represented by:		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
117,323.73	Cash at Bank	
1,954.56	Bendigo Bank Statement Account	133,688.40
57,991.19	Bendigo Bank General Working Account	3,418.41
34,655.08	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	58,312.35
83,185.36	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	34,716.03
	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3	83,476.51
<u>295,109.92</u>		<u>313,611.70</u>
	Other Assets	
11,900.00	Sundry Debtors	4,583.34
23,908.50	Prepaid Costs for 2022 Bee Congress	-
<u>330,918.42</u>		<u>318,195.04</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
29,725.00	Furniture and Fixtures at Cost	-
<u>(29,725.00)</u>	Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-</u>
<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
330,918.42	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	318,195.04
<u>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
4,143.14	Net GST Payable to ATO	2,008.77
5,376.00	PAYG Withheld Payable to ATO	-
934.32	Superannuation Payable	-
585.00	Other Payables	129.00
-	Accrued Expenses	10,000.00
-	Grants Received but not yet spent	4,545.45
<u>11,038.46</u>		<u>16,683.22</u>
<u>\$ 319,879.96</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 301,511.82</u>

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

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2022

2021		2022
	<u>INCOME</u>	
7,183.83	Interest Received - Bank accounts	4,286.64
<hr/> 7,183.83	<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	<hr/> 4,286.64
-	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	-
<hr/> \$ 7,183.83	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	<hr/> \$ 4,286.64
		<hr/> <hr/>

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 2022

2021		2022
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
472,072.71	Opening Balance 01/05/2021	479,256.54
<u>7,183.83</u>	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>4,286.64</u>
<u>\$ 479,256.54</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2022	<u>\$ 483,543.18</u>
Represented by:		
	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	Cash at Bank	
44.98	Bendigo Bank Working Account	5.09
429,211.56	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	433,498.09
-	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	5,040.00
<u>429,256.54</u>		<u>438,543.18</u>
50,000.00	Loan to Australian Manuka Honey Association	45,000.00
<u>479,256.54</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>483,543.18</u>
-	<u>Less: LIABILITIES</u>	-
<u>\$ 479,256.54</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 483,543.18</u>

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

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

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.

Accounting Basis

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

Non-Current Assets

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

Leave Entitlements

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

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.

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.

Contingent Liability


A potential future liability exists in relation to any shortfall that may arise from the operation of the 4th Australian Bee Congress in Sydney in June 2022. At the time of signing the financial statements, the committee do not expect a shortfall to occur in relation to the Congress.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

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

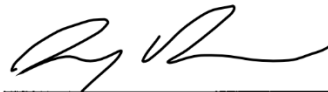
- 1) Presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. as at 30 April 2022 and the results of the Association for the year ended 30 April 2022.
- 2) Have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.



Signature

Position: Chair - AHBIC

Date: 3/06/2022



Signature

Position: Acting CEO - AHBIC

Date: 3/06/2022



Ramsey & Associates

Auditors & Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2022, 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 2022 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: 20 May 2022



Australian Honey Bee

INDUSTRY COUNCIL



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