



Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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AHBIC Chair Report

Jon Lockwood

205/2026 Season

The 2025/2026 season has been one of the toughest periods Australian beekeepers have witnessed. Historically we referenced weather patterns, prospects and production, today the focus is on Varroa and business viability.

The discovery of a new incursion of Varroa that is resistant to the two main chemical classes has come to a shock for industry. Our thoughts are with those operators who learnt they were dealing with the resistant strain too late. This was not operator error, rather being caught off guard by something that we did not imagine occurring for decades. Now that the beekeeping community understands and recognises that we are dealing with a different beast, we as beekeepers can adapt and adopt alternative treatment methods moving forward.

With any crisis comes opportunity. For the willing, the future is bright. Several reports recently published explains that Australia will be short of bees for pollination events in the foreseeable future. Less bees will result in less honey being produced, Australian honey becoming a premium. Australian beekeepers are renowned for their resilience and adaptability. Those who can combine the craft of successful beekeeping in Australia with Varroa management will prosper.

Emergency roundtable

The AHBIC team are very much in touch with the beekeepers on the ground. Across the AHBIC staff and executive, there is a constant stream of communication that results in AHBIC having a true understanding of what is happening. Behind the scenes, the AHBIC team have constant discussions on the impacts that beekeepers are experiencing using this information to act. AHBIC is listening.

The challenge is determining how to help industry and what to advocate for that is realistic. This is a common challenge for any agricultural representative body. To be taken seriously, AHBIC must go to government with a clear, well thought out, achievable request.

AHBIC has secured funding via the Queensland government to conduct emergency round table discussions. An independent facilitator who specialises in this field has been engaged to assist AHBIC in achieving outcomes and not resulting in a talk fest.

On the 30th of June 2026, the first discussion took place. The roundtable has been established to bring together the beekeeping industry (a representative from each member body), technical experts, governments and pollination-dependent sectors to develop a practical pathway forward in response to the current varroa treatment resistance challenge. The focus will be on identifying actions that can support beekeepers, protect pollination capacity and strengthen the resilience of the honeybee and pollination industries.



The first session was very successful. Many great ideas and thoughts were established. It is now a huge task for the facilitators and AHBIC to collate the information into a digestible document. This document will be shared with the broader industry and most importantly taken to the decision makers forum on the 28th of July. The decision makers forum, as the name suggests, will have the people in the room who can act, AHBIC will be advocating very strongly to achieve results.

Imported honey

AHBIC's consistent work in this area over the past four years has finally shown results. DAFF have been very accommodating to work with, despite being painfully slow! In late 2025 and early 2026 DAFF engaged the states and territories food authorities to conduct a spontaneous survey, to collect samples from importers. Under the current protocol in the Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS), all samples passed for adulteration. However, when the same samples were tested via NMR testing, a significant problem was discovered. This clearly demonstrates that the current protocol is insufficient. DAFF are currently investigating the next course of action. The objective for AHBIC is to have the IFIS protocol adjusted to a modern-day method. This would be a huge win for the Australian beekeeping industry.

The roll of volunteers

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who volunteer their time for the benefit of the industry. There are likely over a hundred people who contribute to an organization in one way or another. Whether it be cooking the barbeque at your local branch, working at shows, sitting on committees or executives, it all helps and contributes to the common goal to better our industry.

It is important to be supportive of each other and encourage people to step up and contribute to these roles. Social media highlights everything that we do, it is important not to criticize individuals online, particularly for holding a position where they are volunteering. For the thick skinned, it may be water off a ducks back, however the next generation are watching. In the back of their minds, they may be hesitant to step up observing this criticism. Think about what you say, is it necessary or helpful?

The year ahead

Levy reform is still ongoing and the key priority. AHBIC intended to be further ahead in the reform, however topics that take priority, such as resistant mites jump the queue.

AHBIC are fortunate to have established a fantastic team, the staff and executive work closely and respectfully in a positive environment. I have witnessed the group with a large range of specialized skillset commit to the roll and work hard for our industry.

A special acknowledgement to Ben Mckee has served on the AHBIC executive for six years and has completed his term. While Ben has not been forward facing, he has been a wealth of knowledge and has significantly contributed to the team with his years of industry knowledge.

Bianca has done an amazing job over the past 12 months, wrapping up the T2M program, continuing with industry development and will now be heading the Australian Colony Loss program. Thank you to Danny for assisting myself in my first year as Chairman, particularly ensuring that I do not become too operational, and his continuous above and beyond efforts.

Finally, the industry was extremely saddened by the loss of James Kershaw, a great mate, a great person and a great beekeeper. James contributed immensely to the beekeeping industry over the years, through research, outreach, NSWAA and AgriFutures. James is best described as a man who wouldn't hurt a fly, extremely humble, a wealth of knowledge and always liked a joke. Speaking with James in his final weeks, all he wanted to do was get out to the bees. In the tough times that we are facing, this is something that we should remind ourselves, be grateful to have health and to continue to do what we love. James was sent off at a graveside service where an overwhelming 600 people attended. Our thoughts are with our friends, the Kershaw family. James has now gone to check the bees.

I wish you all the best for the season ahead.

Best wishes

Jon Lockwood, AHBIC Chairman



New South Wales Apiarists Association



Matthew Skinner, President

In my second year as President, I would like to thank my fellow Executive for their support. These roles are volunteer roles, and I would like to extend a big thank you for your time, effort and input throughout the year. Without a strong team effort, the Association wouldn't be where it is. I would also like to thank Ray Hull for his time as Vice President, who will continue on as Executive Councillor.

I would like to thank our Secretary Michelle for her dedication, time and effort this year. Michelle has had a massive year this year going above and beyond in all areas, looking at all avenues to help NSWAA save money and preparing for meetings. A big thank you especially with her work on the new website, it has come together nicely, with more improvements to come. Thank you, Michelle.

February brought unfortunate news of flumethrin resistance being reported in the north. This was shortly followed in April with amitraz resistance. This is very concerning to be hit with a double whammy in such a short period. Additionally, the announcement of a second incursion of a new mite variation is deeply concerning. This combined with the lacking conclusions in the Decker report regarding the initial incursion, raises massive concerns on our biosecurity going forward. This is not isolated to our industry but for all agriculture sectors. There is a lot of work to do in biosecurity preparedness as other threats are knocking at the door.

2025-26 Season

As the season wrapped up, reports of significant colony losses in southern Queensland and northern NSW was greatly disturbing. We requested an urgent meeting with the Minister for Agriculture and sent a brief detailing the crisis with a request for urgent financial and practical support and are currently awaiting a response.

Earlier in the season, we heard mixed responses from beekeepers around the state. There have been some good honey flows this season (Yellow Box and River Gum) with mixed autumnal opportunities. The importance of starting next season on the right foot is critical to success. Consistent and strong surveillance before, during and after treatments to assess both colony strength and treatment efficacy is key. We all face changes in our hive management to address this issue.

Honey prices have headed in the right direction, and we hope this to continues to rise with increased costings of fuel and labour across the board.



Australian Honey Advertisement

We formed a Marketing subcommittee, chaired by Sam Lockwood, to create an advertisement to promote Australian Honey. Sam and his committee are to be congratulated for their efforts, and we were pleased to launch the advertisement on social media in time for World Bee Day! The advertisement currently has over 63,000 views across social media platforms. We are currently making plans to distribute the advertisement through further avenues.

Resources

Resources are critical more than ever with Varroa mite, ongoing challenges and threats and we have been working actively in a number of areas:

- Formation a Resources subcommittee;
- Public land permit (BPASS) monthly meetings;
- Meeting with members of NSW Parliament including, Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Environment and Energy, The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC and Shadow Agriculture Minister Mr Brendan Moylan MP.
- Presentation of evidence at the hearing for Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways in NSW Parliament.
- Presentation of a webinar and fact sheet to the Planning industry. Our industry is not being considered during assessment of developments, including renewables, within NSW. The webinar and fact sheet are now on our website for those interested.
- The Native Title Case on the South Coast is also threatening our access to resources, and we are keeping an eye on this matter as it progresses through the court.
- Meeting with NSW National Parks senior staff to put forward our concerns about the Great Koala National Park. The footprint of the proposed park is significant, 476,000 ha, and the land transfer between Forestry and National Park will likely result in the loss of many vacant permit sites.

Biosecurity and compliance

Synthetic treatment resistance is now an ongoing issue and as we transform our management strategies and operations as resistant mites spread, we must work together and check in with our mates.

Other biosecurity threats must not be forgotten; there are reports of increased prevalence of AFB related dead outs due to abandoned or neglected hives. AFB is a notifiable disease, and we all must do our part.

The National Varroa Mite Management Program was wound up at the start of the year as the transition to management concluded. We would like to thank the team, including the VDOs for their contributions to the industry during the challenging time.

We welcome the engagement of four apiary compliance officers at the beginning of 2026. The relationship between NSWAA with the DPIRD biosecurity and compliance teams are strong with continuous communication and productive outputs.

Traceability Grant

Our traceability app is coming together nicely with a lot of work behind the scenes. We have partnered with Onside (IT provider) to bring our industry a cost-effective platform for their record keeping, meeting their requirements under the Code of Practice and fulfilling their obligations under Appendix 1. Sales will be launched across the country in the coming weeks.

Conference

Our 2026 AGM, Conference and Trade Exhibition was held at Pit Complex, Mount Panorama Racing Circuit, Bathurst. We hosted over 280 delegates and 30 exhibitors over the 2.5 day event. NSW Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, opened the conference. We were pleased to host around 30 presentations including, two international keynote speakers, Dr Claudia Garrido from Germany and Dr Sammy Ramsey from USA. Again, my thanks to Michelle for all her preparation and organising; to the volunteers that assisted with speaker gifts and attendee registration; and our Conference partners for their ongoing support. NSWAA Inc. will be hosting the 2027 AHBIC AGM next year alongside our AGM, Conference and Trade Exhibition in Tamworth, 21-24 June 2026.

Matthew Skinner

President



Victorian Apiarists' Association

Lindsay Callaway, President



Dear Victoria's beekeepers.

It's your industry.

It's your VAA.

And VAA is your collective voice and peak body.

Beekeepers want the same things...

- We want healthy bees.
- We want viable businesses.
- We want practical solutions.
- We want to win the fight against Varroa.
- We want a future worth handing to the next generation.

However, for too long, parts of our industry have been distracted by division and fragmented thinking. Having and sharing different points of view is essential, and it is necessary that we each bring our views to the table. The future we build to adapt to the paradigm shift of varroa will succeed only if we build that future together.

After more than twelve months in this role, I have enormous respect for every VAA president who has come before me. Your Victorian Apiarists' Association is relatively small in structure, yet massive in importance to agriculture, food security and the future of apiculture in this state. And yet, despite the challenges, I have never been more optimistic.

Adversity has a way of revealing what matters. Varroa has now established itself across Victoria. Fuel costs, seasonal pressure, increasing operating costs and regulatory complexity continue to test commercial and recreational beekeepers alike. The emergence of resistant mite strains only sharpens that challenge further. But I believe this challenge will ultimately make us stronger.

Varroa is forcing us to evolve. It is forcing us to collaborate. It is forcing us toward smarter, safer and more sustainable management systems. And in many ways, this transition will strengthen Victoria's beekeeping for generations to come.

VAA exists to ensure that the transition ahead happens with Victoria's beekeepers at the centre of every decision. By putting beekeepers first, VAA provides a home for all Victoria's beekeepers. By putting beekeepers first, VAA provides a voice for all Victoria's beekeepers. This has been a year of delivery, progress and strategic momentum for Victoria's beekeeping. Over the past twelve months, your VAA has delivered practical outcomes across education, advocacy, research, industry support and association growth. Thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people, here are some key results/highlights...

Strategic direction and renewal

- Established the framework for the VAA Strategic Plan.
- Formal articulation of VAA principles of One Home. One Voice. One Guardian.
- Clearer alignment of advocacy, education and member service priorities.

Biosecurity and education

- Delivery of the Advanced Commercial Varroa Workshop at Swanpool.
- Delivery of the Specialist Varroa Workshop at Cairnlea.
- Continued growth of HiveMeet as Victoria's monthly digital learning platform.
- Expansion of the VAA's online education and recorded resource library.

Industry capability and support

- Launch of the Apiary Business Navigator Program.
- Development of the Peer-to-Peer Beekeeper Support framework.
- Practical support for Victorian beekeepers navigating varroa transition.

Advocacy and policy

- Initiated and led the landmark DEECA Strategic Roadmap Workshop.
- Progress through the Ag-Chem Working Group toward practical treatment reform.
- Continued advocacy on public land access, prescribed burning and beekeeper service fees.
- Stronger representation of honey bee food security issues to government and agriculture.

Research and Long-term stewardship

- Progression of the Box Ironbark Forest research grant.
- Strengthening of the Resources subcommittee.
- Development of practical long-term floral resource stewardship pathways.

Community and association strength

- Record momentum leading into the 2026 Annual Conference.
- Strong sponsorship support and growing industry backing.
- Outstanding Melbourne Royal Show volunteer contribution.
- Continued branch engagement and regional leadership growth.



These are not isolated activities. They are strategic building blocks. Together, they represent a VAA with purpose and momentum.

One home. VAA continues to strengthen its role as the home for all Victoria's beekeepers. Across branches, workshops, digital education and volunteer programs, we are seeing stronger engagement from recreational, sideliner and commercial beekeepers alike. Importantly, we are seeing younger beekeepers stepping forward. This matters. Because the long-term strength of our association depends on renewal.

One Voice. VAA has worked hard over the past twelve months to ensure Victoria's beekeepers are heard clearly and credibly. Government is listening. Agriculture is listening. Policy makers are listening. That has only been possible because our advocacy is increasingly united, evidence-based and solutions-focused.

One Guardian. Varroa remains the defining challenge of our generation. VAA will continue fighting to ensure Victoria's beekeepers have access to treatment pathways that are legal, practical, safe and effective. We must move quickly toward a future where every Victorian beekeeper, regardless of scale, has confidence in the treatment options available to them. This work is well underway and will remain one of VAA's highest priorities.

A stake in the ground

The next twelve months must be a year of renewal. My hope is that we continue to see younger leaders step forward, ready to serve, support and shape the beekeeping industry via VAA. My expectation is that Victoria's beekeepers continue to unite around practical, evidence-based varroa management. My commitment is that VAA will continue pushing for the systems, education and regulatory settings required for our industry to thrive.

I remain incredibly proud to serve as VAA president. Thank you to every board member, volunteer, sponsor, branch representative and member who has contributed to this year's progress. Together, we will continue to build something stronger.

Lindsay Callaway

President

Queensland Beekeepers' Association



Trevor Weatherhead, President

It has been my honour to again serve as President of the Queensland Beekeepers Association. This followed the resignation of Ken Bannister from the Presidency in September last year.

This past year has been an eventful one for beekeepers. With Varroa now spreading rapidly it has brought a new urgency to beekeeping. Beekeeping has changed forever and not for the better.

The appearance of resistance of Varroa to two of our treatments, Bayvarol and Apivar, came much sooner than expected due to a second incursion of the Varroa mite which carried the resistance genes. This brought with it new challenges in the way we keep our hives alive. At this stage we do not know where it came from and, unfortunately, there has been no conclusive pathway found for the first incursion.

Jacob Stevens and I had meetings with Minister Perrett and another meeting with DPI Director General, Graeme Bolton, and his senior staff. We put forward several issues around the problems that have been caused by Varroa and the resistance problems. We continue to follow up on our representations.

Jacob and I also had a meeting with staff from Forestry and National Parks and Wildlife on a range of issues. We are following these up and some of the results have been reported to members. NPWS also put out their "Code of Practice for Beekeeping on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Areas 2025" for comment. A submission will be coming from QBA plus I hope many beekeepers also put in a submission.

The QBA was also invited to put in comments on the "Sunset review – Queensland's Biosecurity Regulation 2016 Consultation Impact Analysis Statement". Initial comments were submitted in December 2025, and a further submission will be made on the consultation draft.

Thank you to Jacob for the effort he has put into the Biosecurity and Resources areas.

This year we also followed up on items we needed to address from our Round 1 grant for the Community Bee Innovation Fund. One was the successful In Apiary Day at Gatton Research Station. Thank you to Craig Bacchi for organising this. We have some fact sheets and educational material prepared that we can use in the future. The Biosecurity Code of Practice and the Biosecurity manual were distributed electronically to all members plus some hard copies were distributed to Branches and amateur groups for members who do not have the capacity to download these documents.

The Native Title issues are progressing very slowly. This was one of the issues we raised with Minister Perrett. Thank you to Robert Dewar for representing QBA on this issue.

The removal of the 2044 deadline for the cessation of apiary sites on National Parks has been promised by Minister Powell. To date this has not happened as QBA has been advised they wish to attach this to a series of bills and not have it as a standalone bill. We keep pushing on this issue.

This year QBA became a member of Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers (QFVG). The main industries that require pollination services from beekeepers are also members of QFVG so it seemed logical as members we will be able to interact with one another. QFVG was a recipient of money from

the Round 1 CBIF grants to hold workshops with their growers to inform them about what to expect with the spread of Varroa in their areas. I have been able to have beekeepers attend their workshops that they are holding to be part of the panel. Thank you to those beekeepers who have helped out. I have also had several meetings with the QFVG CEO, Scott Kompo-Harms, and his staff, to talk about what growers can expect with the spread of Varroa and help with their workshops. Scott has also been briefed on what we have been discussing with Minister Perrett and DPI Director General, Graeme Bolton, and Scott will also lobby on our behalf.

During the year we have had regular update meetings with Rob Stephens and his VMIRI team.

With all the problems that are facing us today, it was decided that this years conference should try to engender some hope for the future, hence the theme “Adapt and Thrive”. We all know how hard this past year has been, it does not pay to dwell on the negatives from the past but look ahead and see how we can make things better for ourselves in the future.

There have been many issues that your Management Committee has had to deal with in this past year. I thank the Management Committee for their input.

So back to the beginning of this financial year.

We had our 121st AGM and conference at Mantra Sharks Southport. Around 200 participants with some very good speakers and many trade displays. This was followed by a field day at the Beaudesert Showgrounds organised by the Brisbane Branch of the QBA. This was well attended by beekeepers and well supported by exhibitors.

The Ekka rolled around and unfortunately the Honey Court was shifted by the RNA people to the back of the Agricultural Pavilion, which is the carpark at other times. This meant we had less exposure than we would have otherwise had. So stock was reduced in numbers to allow for the loss of foot traffic. Fortunately, we sold out our honey, so nothing had to be carried over. Education again featured strongly with demonstrations in the bee cage, honey extracting and having staff there to answer questions. Many thanks to Leisa Sams and her band of willing workers for the successful Honey Court under trying conditions. This year there will most likely be changes at the Ekka. More on this as it develops.

We also had to appoint a new Secretary after the resignation of our previous Secretary, Kerry Stockwell, due to family reasons. We have been very fortunate in having Alex Macleanan taking on the Secretary role. She has proved to be a great asset. Thanks also to Steph Ruge for helping Alex fit into the Secretary's role and other work that she has performed.

The QBA was awarded the 2025 Australian Biosecurity Award in the Industry Category. The nomination came from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, acknowledging the outstanding efforts of QBA members in response to the detection of *Varroa jacobsoni* in Queensland.

Through our network, the QBA facilitated a 27 volunteer-led surveillance effort over 18 weeks, playing a critical role in the successful containment of the incursion. The QBA successfully located 15 European honey bee colonies and one Asian honey bee colony – the latter being the original source of the *Varroa jacobsoni* detection. This early effort enabled swift eradication activities and gave government agencies crucial time to destroy host species, significantly reducing the risk of further spread.

This prestigious recognition highlights the vital role our members play in safeguarding Australia's biosecurity. It isn't the first time QBA has stepped up to support biosecurity initiatives that protect our industry, and it certainly won't be the last. A special thank you to all of the members whose hard work made that achievement possible.

QBA was invited by RNA to participate in the Rural Discovery Day, which now goes for a week. QBA has not been there for several years now. We are told there will be over 2,000 school children who will come through over the week so it is an excellent opportunity to teach the children about honey bees, honey and pollination. Thank you to those volunteers who came and helped. In particular to my wife, Marion, who put the display together and worked on the presentation material.

As we go forward, I am sure there will be many challenges that your Management Committee will need to deal with to keep our industry viable.

Trevor Weatherhead AM

QBA President



Tasmanian Beekeepers Association



Lindsay Bourke AM, President

The Tasmanian Beekeepers Association has continued to grow in strength, influence and professionalism over the past year. We remain committed to representing the interests of Tasmania's apiary industry and ensuring its importance is recognised by government, agriculture and the wider community.

Although small by mainland standards, Tasmania's apiary industry makes a significant contribution through honey production, queen breeding, pollination services, regional employment and the stewardship of our unique natural resources. The value of our industry extends well beyond honey, supporting fruit, berries, seeds and many other crops that depend on healthy, well-managed bees.

This has again been a challenging year. Seasonal conditions have varied, access to reliable floral resources remains critical, business costs continue to rise, and commercial operators are balancing increasing pollination demand while preparing for the ongoing threat of varroa.

Biosecurity and Varroa Preparedness

Biosecurity has remained TBA's highest priority. Tasmania's island status provides a valuable advantage, but only if supported by effective surveillance, preparedness and rapid response capability.

TBA has continued to advocate for a "Fortress Tasmania" approach to honey bee biosecurity - protecting what we have through strong risk management rather than isolation. We have highlighted concerns about the end of national varroa surveillance funding and the ongoing need for well-resourced monitoring at ports, freight pathways and other high-risk entry points.

We acknowledge the continued commitment of the Tasmanian Government, Biosecurity Tasmania and our Bee Biosecurity Officer, whose work in supporting beekeepers and maintaining industry readiness is invaluable.

Preventing a varroa incursion remains far more cost-effective than responding to one. Long-term biosecurity requires ongoing investment from government, industry and pollination-dependent sectors.

Pollination and Industry Value

Demand for pollination continues to grow across Tasmania's fruit, berry, seed, nursery and vegetable industries. Pollination underpins agricultural productivity and contributes far greater economic value than honey production alone.

For this reason, bee biosecurity is not simply a beekeeping issue - it is an agricultural productivity, food security and regional economic issue. TBA will continue working closely with horticultural and agricultural industries to strengthen understanding of the importance of sustainable pollination services and maintaining Tasmania's varroa-free status.

Resource Access and Leatherwood

Access to floral resources remains essential to the viability of commercial beekeeping. Leatherwood continues to be Tasmania's signature honey, providing a unique product recognised nationally and internationally.

We appreciate the Tasmanian Government's support for the Leatherwood Promotion Campaign and will continue promoting this iconic product.

At the same time, fire, changing land management, environmental pressures and public land access continue to threaten important apiary sites. TBA will keep advocating for fair and practical access arrangements that recognise the importance of beekeeping to Tasmania's agricultural and natural resource sectors.

Industry Development and Communication

Over the past year, TBA has strengthened communication with members through improved newsletters, website updates and clearer information sharing.

Our affiliated branches and recreational beekeeping clubs remain an important part of the industry. While commercial and recreational beekeepers operate at different scales, biosecurity affects everyone. Good beekeeping practices, hive registration, surveillance, traceability and timely reporting are essential to protecting Tasmania's bee health.

TBA has also continued to contribute to national discussions through AHBIC on issues including varroa management, imported honey, pollination, levy arrangements, and biosecurity funding

Joint National Conference

Preparation for the 2026 Joint National Conference in Launceston, hosted with AHBIC, has been a major focus this year.

The conference will showcase Tasmania's industry while addressing key issues including varroa management, pollination, medicinal honey, transport, workforce development and the future of commercial beekeeping.

I thank our sponsors, speakers, volunteers and industry partners whose support makes this important event possible.

Acknowledgements

I sincerely thank the TBA Executive, branch representatives, affiliated clubs, committee members and individual members for their dedication throughout the year. Much of the work undertaken on behalf of the industry occurs behind the scenes, from submissions and biosecurity planning to member support, communications and conference organisation.

I also acknowledge the continued support of AHBIC. Close cooperation between state and national organisations remains essential as our industry addresses increasingly complex challenges.

In Closing

Tasmania's apiary industry has much to be proud of. We produce world-class honey, support high-value agriculture and continue to demonstrate resilience in changing conditions.

At the same time, varroa, resource access, seasonal variability, rising costs and strengthening biosecurity will remain major challenges.

Meeting these challenges will require cooperation across the industry, continued government support and strong partnerships with pollination-dependent sectors. By working together, TBA will continue to provide a respected voice for Tasmanian beekeeping and help ensure our industry remains well placed for the future.

Lindsay Bourke AM

President



South Australian Apiarists' Association



Brenton Davis, President

The past twelve months have been among the most challenging periods our industry has experienced in decades. South Australian beekeepers have continued to navigate the realities of varroa, prolonged drought conditions in many regions, increasing costs of production, low honey prices, biosecurity challenges and ongoing uncertainty across the broader agricultural sector.

Despite these challenges, there have also been many examples of resilience, innovation and collaboration throughout our industry. I would like to thank all members for their continued contribution to beekeeping in South Australia and for the support they provide to each other during a period of rapid change.

Varroa and Biosecurity

The most significant issue facing our industry continues to be varroa. The initial discovery in the Riverland which was brought in from Qld during almond pollination last year turned out to be both established and the resistant strain. During the year, after a beekeeper from NSW allegedly brought hives into SA for the cherry pollination, varroa spread to neighbouring hives and now detections have been reported across many areas of South Australia. While many of us recognised that varroa arriving in South Australia was just a matter of when rather than if, the transition from preparedness to active management has nevertheless been a major adjustment for many beekeepers.

The experiences being reported from interstate continue to reinforce the importance of regular hive inspections, effective monitoring and maintaining a robust varroa management plan. Reports from eastern states indicate increasing challenges associated with resistance development and significant colony losses in some operations. The message remains clear: ongoing education, monitoring, testing and adaptation will be critical for the long-term success of our industry.

The introduction of varroa into South Australia has also highlighted the importance of protecting Kangaroo Island's unique biosecurity status. Following recommendations from the Kangaroo Island Beekeepers Association and the Kangaroo Island Bee Biosecurity Risk Assessment, PIRSA increased biosecurity resources at Cape Jervis and commenced deployment of sentinel hives at key entry points to Kangaroo Island. These measures are important steps in protecting the oldest bee sanctuary in the world and the genetics of the Ligurian bees.

Queen Importation and Industry Regulation

Throughout the year SAAA continued to advocate for practical and consistent policies regarding the importation of queens and queen cells into South Australia.

While PIRSA has provided some people conditional permits allowing queen bees to be imported from Queensland and Victoria, concerns remain regarding the practical implementation of these arrangements and the lack of a communicated position regarding the importation of queen cells. Industry members have also repeatedly raised concerns regarding the lack of consistency, transparency and timeliness in decision making by PIRSA.

Particularly concerning is the recent PIRSA decision to allow nearly 1000 nuc's to be brought into SA from NSW that were known to contain varroa, while it is still a notifiable pest here and while at the same time other operators have been reputedly refused or interminably delayed the required permits or certificates required to bring in queens.

SAAA has continued to represent the interests of South Australian beekeepers through SAVIAC and other industry forums, advocating for policies that support business continuity and industry resilience while maintaining biosecurity.

PIRSA Apiary Unit and Industry Development

During the year we welcomed Davide Stella into the role of Bee Biosecurity Officer for South Australia. After an extended period without a dedicated BBO, we look forward to the support and expertise this position brings to the industry. The Varroa Development Officers have been rebranded as Industry Engagement and Capability Officers and continue to provide information and support to beekeepers preparing for and dealing with varroa.

PIRSA is also to be commended for providing the required varroa treatments FOC to beekeepers of South Australia that have needed them and have committed to this until June 2027.

Unfortunately, that was the highlights of the year from the Apiary unit, which disappointingly lost two more excellent staff and has failed to provide the timely, consistent or transparent levels of service that should be delivered to the beekeepers of SA. It is a loss to the whole state when a significant apiary business moves their operations interstate because part of a state government department makes it untenable for them to effectively conduct business here.

SAAA advocated to Minister Scriven for more resources for the apiary unit however she assured us she has *"confidence that PIRSA ensures South Australian beekeepers are provided with the support and resources required for efficient processing of approvals and permits."*

We wish that was the case.

The South Australian Apiary Industry Strategic Blueprint has also made some progress. PIRSA established the Apiary and Pollination Industry Development Reference Group, bringing together representatives from the apiary, pollination and horticultural sectors. Hydra Consulting was engaged to undertake the development of the blueprint, and consultation with industry stakeholders has commenced.

This project provides an important opportunity to establish a long-term vision for the future of the South Australian apiary and pollination industries. We encourage all members to participate in surveys and consultation activities as they become available.



Apiary Industry Fund

SAAA representatives serving on the Apiary Industry Fund Interim Steering Committee participated in the annual review of the Apiary Industry Fund Management Plan for the next 5 years.

The Association remains committed to ensuring that levy funds are invested in initiatives that deliver meaningful benefits to contributors and support the long-term sustainability of the industry.

Industry Collaboration and Pollination

This year highlighted the increasing importance of collaboration amongst beekeepers and pollination-dependent industries.

With drought conditions and state biosecurity rules affecting available bee numbers and pollination demand remaining high, we saw approximately 600 hives from Western Australia imported into South Australia to support almond pollination.

The Association also continued to work closely with the Horticultural Coalition of South Australia, the BSSA and AHBIC to strengthen industry relationships and improve outcomes for members.

Kangaroo Island Beekeepers Association

Last year the Kangaroo Island Beekeepers Association was re-established.

The Association has started work on a Queen Bee Breeding Project aimed at protecting and strengthening the unique genetics of the Kangaroo Island Ligurian bee population. As part of this initiative, representatives visited Western Australia to learn about the Better Bees queen breeding program and meet with industry leaders.

The transfer of bushfire recovery funding previously held by SAAA to KIBA will assist in supporting this important work and help secure the future of Kangaroo Island's unique bee population.

Seasonal Conditions

Seasonal conditions remained highly variable across South Australia throughout the year.

Many regions experienced prolonged dry conditions while others received isolated rainfall events. Honey production was well below average in many areas, and beekeepers faced increasing challenges associated with limited nectar flows and rising operating costs.

Fuel prices fluctuated significantly during the year, creating additional pressure on business costs. These conditions reinforced the value of efficient operations, site selection, technology adoption and careful resource management.

Despite these challenges, encouraging signs remain. Hives are generally strengthening as we head into winter and get ready for pollination, it seems like good end to a fairly average season. Many areas reported strong budding on key floral resources, and the coming season looks promising.

Looking Forward

Australian beekeeping is entering a new era. The challenges facing our industry are significant, but so too are the opportunities.

Success will depend on our ability to continue learning, adapting and working together. Whether addressing varroa management, improving biosecurity, strengthening pollination partnerships, developing breeding programs or shaping industry policy, collaboration will be critical.

I would like to thank all members of the SAAA Executive for 25/26, Tony Tenney, Allan Cotton, Dianne Dyer, Keegan Blignaut, Michelle Cotton and Paul Valkenburg, your work for the industry is much appreciated.

On behalf of the SAAA Executive, thank you for your continued support of the Association and the broader industry. We encourage members to become involved, contribute their ideas and consider nominating for positions within the Association.

Together we can ensure that South Australian beekeeping remains strong, innovative and sustainable for future generations.

Brenton Davis

President



Bee Industry Council of Western Australia



Kate Byrne, Chair

Western Australia is lucky to remain varroa free and are not taking the privileged position for granted. It is heartbreaking to watch what is happening to our eastern counterparts and as we learn from the unfortunate circumstance, we are working hard to bolster our preparedness, not only in biosecurity terms, but also within BICWA itself.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity continues to be BICWA's highest priority. As we helplessly observe the spread of varroa and now chemical resistance, doing everything we can to remain free of varroa for as long as we possibly can is our unified goal. We have two key projects in this space.

BeeSentry, a world first technology using AI to detect varroa on bees entering the units to feed on attractants. The technology has shown great promise for early detection and we continue to look for ways to further improve the distribution and performance of the units to protect our beekeepers.

BeeMAX, a joint project with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to develop and launch a centralised digital traceability system. This has perhaps been the single most frustrating piece of work we have undertaken, as government bureaucracy and policy continue to stifle our endeavours to make much needed and logical improvements to our biosecurity preparedness.

While a lot of focus has been on prevention, we know from our observed experience just how important it is to have a plan should there be an incursion. A mountain of work has been done in this space that has seen the release of the 'WA Varroa Response Strategy v1'.

Beyond our focus on varroa preparedness and response, BICWA continues to provide support and communications on a regular basis to DPIRD, pollination dependent industries and other stakeholders in efforts to do all we possibly can to protect our unique and very fortunate biosecurity status.

Protecting WA's borders – projects to safeguard the WA Bee Industry

Project entities	Description
DAFF and BICWA	<i>Funding 'Traceability' to enhance industry capacity and capability to meet national traceability outcomes and comply with current and emerging requirements. Systems and tools to enhance ability to respond to exotic pests, disease, and food safety incidents (BeeMax and Bee Sentry)</i> <i>Funding \$492,500 + GST</i>
APC and BICWA	<i>Grant Funding for advanced trial of BeeSentry varroa surveillance units. Funds to support BICWA to purchase, operate, maintain and monitor six BeeSentry units for a period of twelve months. Funding \$30,000 + GST.</i>
APC and BICWA	<i>Beekeepers Fee For Service funded, a Service Agreement to foster closer collaboration and understanding amongst beekeepers and industry stakeholders to bring better returns and improved biosecurity outcomes to WA beekeepers.</i> <i>Funding \$30,000 + GST</i>

BICWA continuing to mature as WA's peak industry body

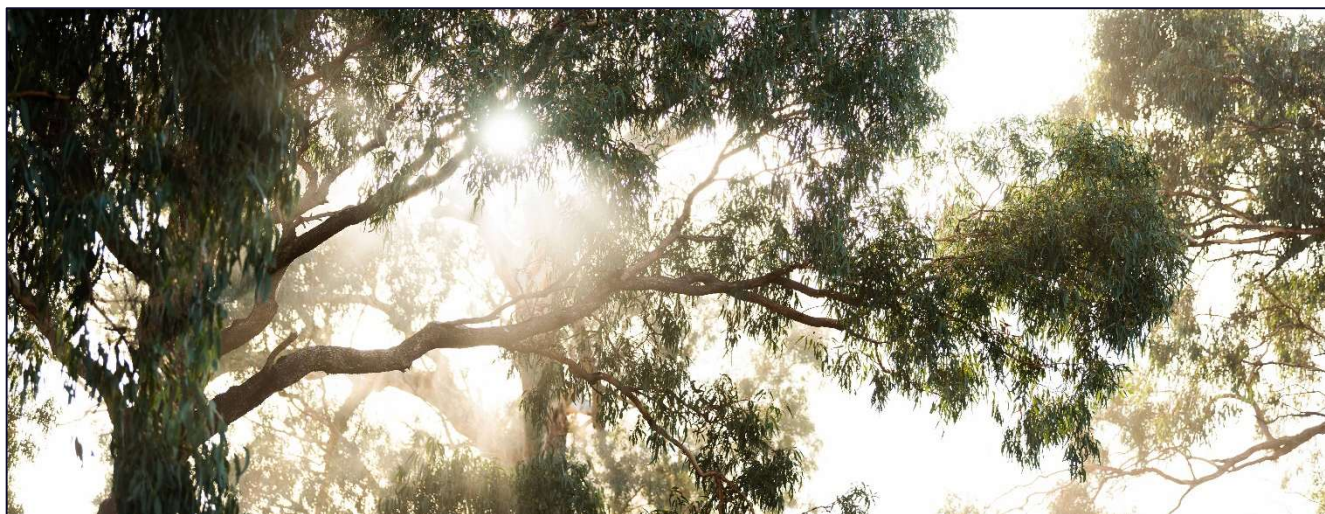
After securing over \$1M in project grant funding in the last couple of years, BICWA has been on a journey of steep change which has necessitated the need for increased governance, improved financial reporting and higher auditing requirements. Acknowledging the pressures on our volunteer Board, this year we have moved to streamline processes and clarify responsibilities to relieve some of the workload that had accumulated. The aim was to ensure that Board members' time could be used efficiently and that BICWA can continue to attract and retain skilled volunteers and funding.

Recognising the need for focus, BICWA launched an updated Strategic Plan which reset priorities and direction for the next five years (2025-2030). The strategic plan is supported by an annual operation plan and a communications plan which work together to provide clear guidance to the Board, staff and stakeholders, ensuring that our activities are coordinated and outcomes focused.

The process of creating these documents helped us better understand key pressure points, such as seasonally effected board capacity, and competing project priorities. We identified the need for a dedicated project and development resource and set about finding a way to fund the role. We are very pleased to be recruiting for a 0.6-0.8FTE Industry Development and Project Officer. As our only paid employee the role will be tasked with delivering key industry projects, programs and engagement and will bring a much-needed steady resource to the team.

Market access & honey protection

Last year we reported on BICWA's application for a Jarrah geographical indicator Trademark. This was an enormous undertaking that was not a manageable path for our small organisation. We made the decision to let the application lapse, which was a disappointing outcome for those involved, but like any good undertaking we walked away with many learnings, including improved project management protocols. Still dedicated to better recognition and product positioning of Australia's magnificent honeys, BICWA has pivoted efforts to the development of mono-floral honey standards. Starting with Marri, the intent is to develop a set of standards that can be replicated for other floral varieties and ultimately be used to drive premium product and price positioning.



The Single Story Trust

BICWA was awarded Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for the 'Single Story Trust'. As the trustee for Single Story, BICWA established the trust as a vehicle to secure funding from supporters focused on environmental causes, particularly the preservation and sustainable development of Western Australia's native forests. Grant applicants can apply to access trust funds to finance projects aimed at improving honey production, protecting pollinators through biosecurity efforts, and supporting research into WA native trees and their relationship to honey, nectar and pollen.

Board Acknowledgements

Beekeeper members Brendan Fewster and David Routley, as well as independent director and Chair, Melanie Tolich, retired from the BICWA Board at the 2025 AGM. Christine Spycher recently finished up as our admin and events coordinator after five years of unwavering dedication and passion for bringing everyone together through events and community communication. We thank them all for their years of dedication and the positive impact they've made on our industry.

Brendan Fewster was awarded the Perpetual Trophy for Excellence in Industry Service, recognising eight years of outstanding leadership and contribution to WA beekeeping advocacy.

Kate Byrne stepped into the role of Chair, and BICWA members elected fifth generation beekeeper Jack Watson for a three-year term, reducing the number of elected beekeeper directors to five. In line with our strategic objective of moving towards a skilled based board this created the opportunity to engage three independent directors who each bring senior level professional skills and have in their own rights been invaluable contributors to BICWA's direction and growth.

Our independent directors are Beth Green who brings deep experience across government, biosecurity and private agriculture; Tina Mettam as our marketing and communications specialist; and Manisha Patel, a professional CFO who has taken on the Treasurer role.

BICWA Volunteers

Without our volunteers, we would not be where we are today. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped during the year at various events, as well as those serving on a regular basis on the BICWA board or committees. Your time and input are greatly appreciated and vital for the success of our Industry. Thank you to all of you.

Summary

2025/26 was a year of growth, changes and important progress.

- Biosecurity remains BICWA's highest priority
- Varroa preparedness projects are progressing, but not without challenge
- Political advocacy is ongoing and crucial
- A sharpened focus through improved operational governance and process
- Strengthened board capability with three skilled based independent directors and soon to welcome a dedicated Industry Development and Project Officer
- Capacity of our volunteer board and prevention of burnout is key to consistent representation

We remain optimistic. While the road ahead promises to be rocky, the passion and perseverance of WA’s beekeepers continue to inspire the work of BICWA. Together, we strive for a strong, secure, and sustainable honeybee industry — not just for today, but for generations to come.

BICWA Board

Our board meets four times per year, with monthly management meetings to progress operational priorities.

Name:	Role:	Position:	Office term ends:
Kate Byrne	Chair	Elected Beekeeper	AGM 2027
Mikey Cernotta	Vice Chair	Elected Beekeeper	AGM 2027
Manisha Patel	Treasurer	Independent Director	AGM 2026
Michael Bellman	Director	Elected Beekeeper	AGM 2026
Simon Bongers	Director	Elected Beekeeper	AGM 2026
Jack Watson	Director	Elected Beekeeper	AGM 2028
Beth Green	Director	Independent Director	AGM 2026
Tina Mettam	Director	Independent Director	AGM 2026
Vacant	Secretary	Non-Director	open

Kate Byrne

Chair



Amateur Beekeepers Australia

Vincent Schnyder, President



Better apiculture through knowledge

Membership

As the *Varroa* mite continued to spread, more and more of our members had to confront these new challenges firsthand. While a new "normal" is beginning to take shape in the original hot-spots of the Hunter, Central Coast, and Sydney Basin regions—with new beekeepers joining clubs knowing nothing other than *Varroa*-era management—other regions are currently being hard hit by initial waves of infestation and the accompanying onslaught of Small Hive Beetles.

Despite these significant challenges (and contrary to many pessimistic predictions), the ABA successfully maintained a stable membership level of around 4,000 members. We were also proud to support the formation of two new clubs: the Whitsunday Beekeepers Association Inc. and the Moreton Bay Beekeepers Inc. in Queensland. This brings our current total to 40 affiliated clubs operating across four states and territories with the first South Australian club lined up to join in the new financial year.

Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers and Training

The ABA's core mission is "**Better apiculture through knowledge**," and bee biosecurity remains a critical skill for every apiarist. To support this, the ABA funded and arranged for a printed copy of the new *Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers* to be mailed directly to every member (with the exception of NT-based beekeepers, who received their copies courtesy of the Northern Territory Government). In addition to this resource, ABA Biosecurity Officer Mike Allerton and other committee members travelled to various clubs throughout the year, delivering hands-on training sessions focused on biosecurity protocols and best practice beekeeping.

Swarm System

With an increasing number of local councils now directing members of the public to our dedicated swarm website www.beekeepers.asn.au/swarms, we recognised the need for a solution to cover regional areas where we currently lack members or affiliated clubs. To address this, we have transitioned to a new platform. While this system is open to all beekeepers to ensure broad coverage, it is designed to offer preferential treatment to ABA members when a swarm is reported through our website.

Club Support

Like many not-for-profit organisations, some ABA-affiliated clubs face ongoing hurdles in recruiting volunteers to manage operations. The ABA actively supports these clubs by absorbing much of the administrative burden. We provide centralised IT infrastructure, handle membership fee collection, and arrange cost-effective club insurance alongside competitive optional cover for individual members.

By alleviating these administrative pressures, we enable clubs to focus on what they do best: delivering high-quality training and mentoring to their members. The success of this model is reflected in the trend over recent years, which has seen long-established interstate clubs join the ABA to "outsource" their admin. By leveraging our scale, the ABA delivers these essential services at a

fraction of the cost (time spend by volunteers) and with much higher automation than individual clubs could achieve on their own.

Outlook

The membership renewal process for the upcoming 2026/27 year kicked off in early June. While the ongoing challenges have unfortunately led some members to exit beekeeping after losing their hives, we have already seen promising renewal numbers from our existing community.

The next few years will undoubtedly be challenging and unpredictable. However, we can draw immense encouragement from overseas experiences; in countries that have managed *Varroa* for decades, hobbyist beekeeping continues to thrive. There is every reason to believe that once this transition period is behind us, our community will adapt, overcome, and continue to safely enjoy the craft of beekeeping.

Vincent Schnyder

President



Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia Inc



Ben McKee, President

Incorporated in Western Australia. Members' liability is limited.

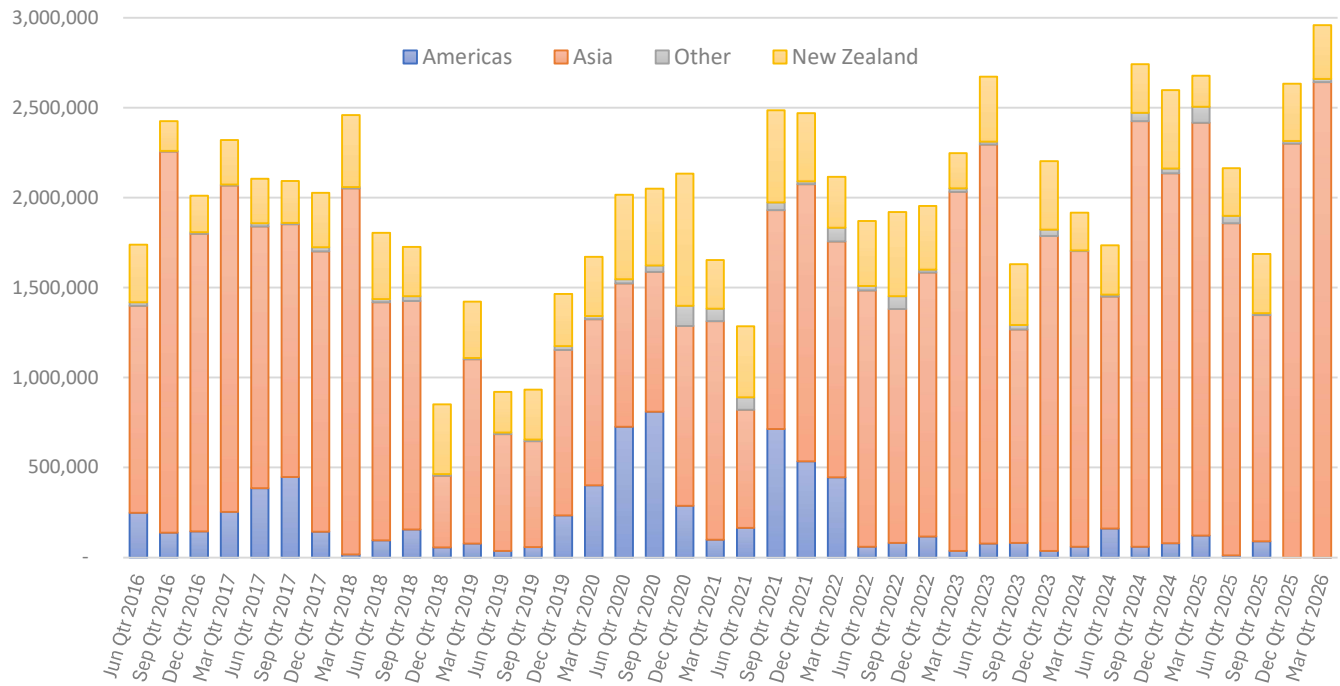
This year has been one to forget for our industry, and particularly for those beekeepers battling Varroa, reinfestation from ferals, and the new complication of a mighty mite with chemical resistance. It is hard work for many of our expert beekeepers, as they are trying to kill and control Varroa without the armour of synthetics, whilst mites are walking in the door as fast as they are being killed. Despite the challenges, the 2025/26 crop was the fifth consecutive crop of what is seemingly a new average crop, notwithstanding the ongoing unfavourable conditions in Victoria and South Australia on the back of previous droughts. Whilst honey supply has met demand thus far, we expect marginally profitable exports of retail honey to Asia are going to reduce as honey prices rise.

Better demand for Australian retail packed honeys domestically and internationally has seen packers consume surplus inventory and this has facilitated a much-needed rise in beekeeper honey price. Price rises are also motivated by the need to reflect structural changes in our beekeeper's businesses, as they realise the economic impacts of Varroa treatment practices, made worse by inflationary rising input costs, common to us all in this industry. The packers are working hard to educate their customers of the rising costs for our beekeepers and the associated necessity for rises in the wholesale prices of Australian honey. Many of us are conscious of the need to make such rises in beekeeper honey prices sustainable and enduring into the future.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has officially declared El Niño active and modelling tips it could become the strongest event in the modern era. It is somewhat ironic that El Niño's arrival coincides with what is fast becoming a wet month across much of Australia. If El Niño develops further, a drier second half of the year is likely. Whilst it is early days, there has been substantial rain in key production regions, and the FY25/26 season may well be another average honey production season, dependent on the toll the mighty mite will induce on hive numbers and health.

Imported honey prices remain relatively steady, and those tested and packed here in Australia continue to offer increased value for consumers and for bulk industrial segments. However, we were disappointed, but not surprised, to hear of the DAFF survey results for adulteration testing of some imports and we welcome the use of better NMR technology that DAFF will hopefully enforce and employ for border testing. The DAFF testing results were aligned with the AHBIC survey and has reiterated our concerns with a particular segment of the imports into Australia. During 2025/26, we have seen imports continue predominantly from Asia and New Zealand, with some specific origins being used to re-export back to Asia to fulfill large-scale high-quality big volume bulk industrial contracts.

Honey Imports (kg) Over Time by Quarter (2016 – 2026):

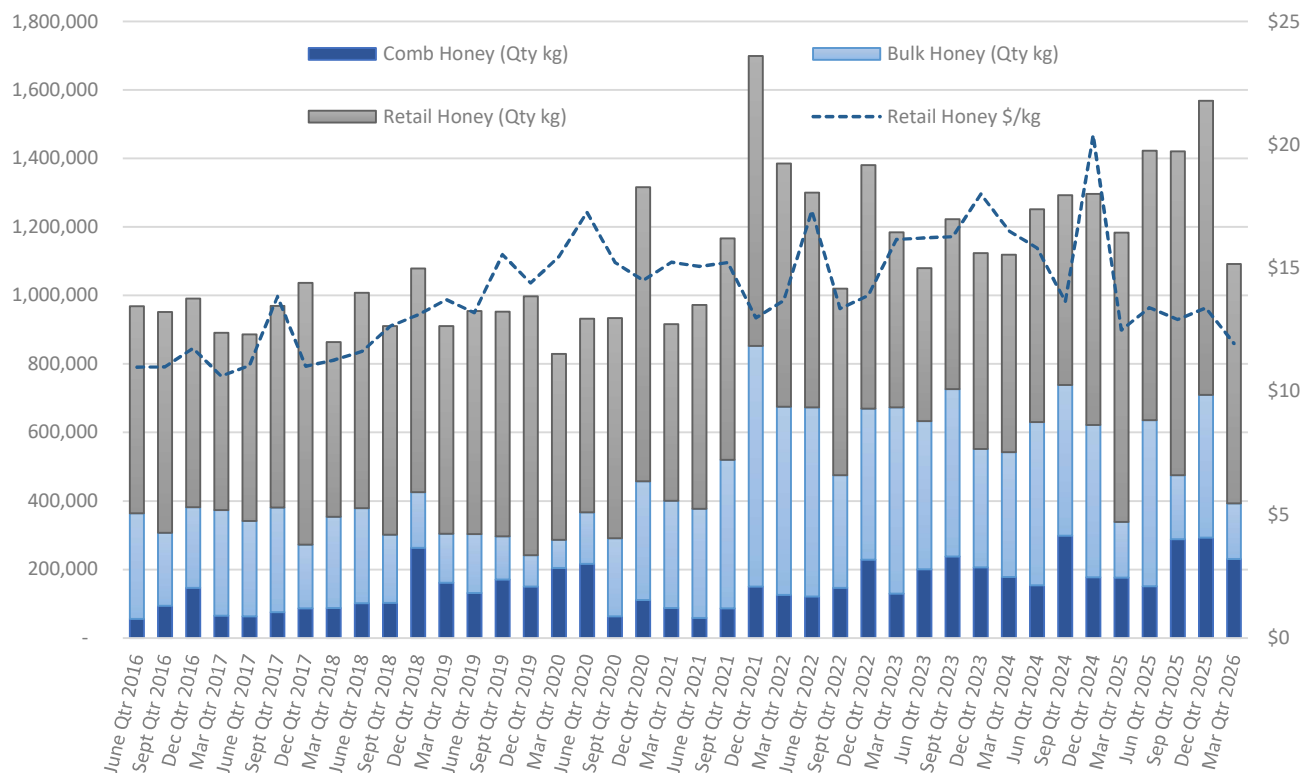


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Below average active Manuka production in consecutive seasons continues to hamper the Australian Manuka honey industry and has caused some growing brands to seek supply from New Zealand. Imports from New Zealand into Australia remain predominantly Manuka honey, so let's hope again this Manuka honey season is much better for active honey production in Australia and we can reduce imports from New Zealand.

Pleasingly, we have again seen total export volumes of honey from Australia continue to rise, with year to date (31 March 2026) total volumes of 5,504 tons, which is up 9.5%. We have also seen continued rises in export retail volumes of honey from Australia, this year we have exported 3,288 tons, which includes 2,695t of export retail, which is 593 ton (+22%) greater than the same period last year. This represents \$42.6m of export retail sales and \$60.6m of total honey product exports. The major retail export markets for Australian honey remains to be China, North America, Japan and South-East Asia.

Honey Exports (kg) Over Time by Quarter (2016 – 2026):



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian retail supermarket and pharmacy segment remains in annual value growth at +9.9%, with a total market size of \$198.0m (Source: IRI Data MTD to 18/05/26), which is up \$17.8m in value. The increase in category value can be again attributed to rises in the premium and health & wellness segments at 28.8% and 8.8% respectively, as was the case last year. It is clear we are seeing more people eating honey and shopping in supermarkets, where we market the vast majority of the honey we produce in Australia, this is a great trend for our industry.

In terms of volume, the picture for the Australian retail supermarket segment remains positive, with the category in excellent growth at +9.1% to an annual total of 11,925t, which is up a notable 995 ton on last year (Source: IRI Data MAT to 17/05/26). Volume growth for a consecutive year is aligned with value growth, and as with value, the premium retail product segment is driving volume growth at 29.5%.

The packers and marketers of the HPMAA continue to work hard to ensure Australian beekeepers get the best return for their quality honey, and we are pleased to again see improving growth in key domestic and export segments.

Ben McKee

President HPMAA

Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association



Peter Czeti, President

The 2025/26 season was shaping up to be much the same as the previous year. Mites continuing to spread, the Industry continued to adapt and a feeling of (at least) a semblance of control. In fact, mites had almost become “business as usual” for some of us. Even the AHBIC meetings dared to find a little time to talk about other matters such as the quality and safety of imported honey or refreshing the aged Honey Bee and Pollination Strategic RD&E Plan!

Not entirely unexpected but certainly earlier than anticipated, the appearance of mites resistant to some of our key chemical treatments in early 2026 brought us crashing back to earth. As breeders and producers of bees, we have always been acutely aware that the breeding of varroa resistant bees has not been front-of-mind for our Industry. We have grudgingly accepted the Industry focus for beekeepers on varroa education, building integrated pest management (IPM) into everyday practices and adjusting business models to cope with the increased costs of chemical treatments. But despite all this, our colleagues in northern NSW and south-east Queensland face a catastrophic situation where much of this focus has been of little benefit.

For the past 12 months we have lobbied the Industry to spend more effort on beginning the breeding journey. To that end, we have refined our Strategy for breeding varroa resistance in bees and – within the resources available to us – established our breeding approach, research support, governance and industry development objectives. I presented the Strategy to AHBIC in the March 2026 member’s meeting. AHBIC are currently considering its content, including the establishment of an AHBIC sub-committee to assist with governance and direction of breeding priorities across our Industry. We can expect to see a focus on breeding in the coming months as the events in NSW and Queensland continues to unfold.

As an Association, our membership remains strong and our regular engagement of monthly meets, information exchanges and networking continues. We have received good feedback on the content of our meetings, and our members are starting to reach out to each other as they seek support for their own breeding efforts and skill building. Interestingly, the portion of our membership with a research and recreational focus has also been growing strongly. While we still have a solid cohort of commercial breeders, more and more aspiring breeders are joining our ranks. This is welcome as the responsibility for the future success of our Industry in the new world of varroa will fall to this group. For that reason, I am very grateful to some of the “old salts” who have shared their experience and knowledge to help aspiring breeders and recreational beekeepers alike gain a greater appreciation of what is involved in the breeding and production of honeybees.

The Management Committee supporting me this year comprised Stephan Lottering (QLD) as Vice President, Phil Marshall (SA) as Secretary and Serena Dorf (QLD) as Treasurer. Paul Reid (NSW), Corinne Jordan (QLD), Graeme Armstrong (QLD), Paul Roder (QLD), John Devenish (VIC) and Ash Newman (TAS) served as general committee members. I wish to thank the Management Committee this year for all their efforts. We have achieved a lot, and I am greatly appreciative of the initiative and “get stuff done” attitude that they bring to the Association.

During the year Corinne Jordan tendered her resignation from the Management Committee to spend time on her business and to deal with the deluge of mites flowing into her bees in south-east

Queensland. Corinne has served on the Management Committee for about 8 years and was central to the foundation of our early VSH breeding program and the outstanding work introducing UBeeO to Australia. We owe Corinne so much that it is difficult to overstate how much of a stalwart she has been for the AQBBA. I personally benefited greatly from her advice and countless introductions into our Industry so I could hook up with the right people. Corinne has also been central to much of the sustainment and out-reach training of breeders in instrumental insemination.

More recently, Stephan Lottering announced that he would not be available for re-election this year onto the Management Committee at our upcoming AGM. Stephan has brought many years of experience breeding queens. I think we could safely say that there isn't much worth knowing about breeding varroa resistant bees that Stephan hasn't already experienced. With his considerable knowledge on the subject, Stephan has always been helpful, yet humble, readily offering his sage advice as we find our way through these difficult times. Like Corinne, Stephan needs to focus on his business and these damnable mites.

To both Corinne and Stephan, we wish you both the very best and you will be sorely missed.

Let's now look forward to the next 12 months.....

Work on building our website content will continue. The Management Committee have been discussing the prospect of getting some professional help with extending some of the capabilities of the Wild Apricot platform we use for our membership system to include a knowledge base along the lines of that outlined in our Strategy as well as supporting special interest groups and information forums where members can discuss matters that are probably not appropriate on Facebook. Expect to see a survey come out in the near future asking for your opinions and thoughts on what we need to focus on.

Our processes in the Newcastle research apiary will continue to be refined and improved. A particular emphasis will be placed on getting work done with less people. Arms and legs have been a real challenge this year and when we mix that in with commercial realities, the research side of things sometimes take the back seat. For this reason, we have only leveraged 70 of the research apiary capacity. I want to try and use testing and treatment methods that require less work but provide as much – if not more value. Two initiatives we will try this year are:

Analysing mite drops and associated detritus on removable bottom boards. Steve Riley from the Westerham Beekeepers in the UK has a great short book that describes this technique (see "The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa"). The main attraction for me is that you don't need to open up a colony, you can take a photo of the bottom board and use artificial intelligence (AI) to count the mites. If you do this on a monthly basis you get a really good idea of what is going on in the colony without the high intervention required of the other tests.

The emergence of resistance to our "favourite" synthetic treatments leaves us dependent on organic chemistry which can be highly situational at times – particularly in the warmer climates. The recent approval of Aluen-CAP and extended oxalic acid release strips will provide a welcome alternative that can keep mite numbers under control for extended periods much as Bayvarol and Apivar did when our less resistant test colonies rose above the treatment threshold.

Two AgriFutures funded research projects are under way that I think will be extremely beneficial to us and provide useful inputs to future breeding options:

Virus Transmission in Semen and Bee Imports

Drs John Roberts and Jody Gertz are getting close to finalising their research into the likelihood and controls around viral transmission in imported bee products (namely semen and live bees). They are writing up the results and we should have their report within about six months.

UBeeO Efficacy and Heritability

Dr Cooper Schouten and team are starting their work researching the use of the UBeeO assay under Australian conditions and the heritability of high-scoring UBeeO stock in later populations.

Interest in establishing other research apiaries has been muted but this is to be expected given the steady state that I described earlier that has suddenly ended. I can report that:

Goldfields Honey has continued their research program from last year and it remains well underway in Orange NSW. They have presented some of their work and results at our members meetings. Expect more good work and information from them this year.

Mt Macedon Honey in Victoria have visited the Newcastle research apiary and will return in the Spring to gain more information and position themselves for starting work this year.

Canberra Region Beekeepers are organising their apiary to receive selected stock from Newcastle and begin a local assessment program and help account for any environmental bias that may be hiding in the cracks of the “bee nirvana” that is Newcastle. Southern NSW can be pretty hard on bees so we can give them a good run in another location that has a “healthy” mite presence.

I will present our Newcastle project to the North East Apiarists Association (NEAA) in Victoria this coming May. They have expressed an interest in establishing a breeding program and trying to get ahead of the curve as they go through their initial avalanche of mites. Like Canberra Region Beekeepers, NEAA are recreational beekeepers who want to start the journey to breeding mite resistance into their own bees.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I want to thank all our members for their support throughout the year. I'd also like to personally thank Jenny Douglas, Frank Malfroy, Mark Bichan, Michael Syme, Paul Roder, Jamie Baggs, and Col Wilson for taking the time to help and support me at the research apiary in Newcastle. Without them, I would have been overwhelmed, and their advice has been instrumental in putting us in such a strong position heading into next season. As an Association, we've built a solid foundation for the future, forging valuable relationships that will serve us well as we continue working toward the goal of mite resistance in our bees.

Peter Czeti

President



Crop Pollination Association of Australia Inc.

Malcolm Porter, President

CPAA has a new executive since our AGM in Beechworth VIC last year due to 4 executive members resigning. The new executive was put in place in March 2026. The new executives are:

President:	Mal Porter
Vice President:	Tim Alt
Secretary / Treasurer:	Debbie Porter
Executive Committee members:	Glenn Sorensen, Corban Rojas

The new executive has hit the ground running, finalising things started by the old executive.

Since the new executive was elected, we are in the process of finishing off setting up our new website that the previous executive started. Membership renewals have been sent out to members. Our conference will be attended by zoom.

CPAA still has a full range of Mudflaps for utilities and trucks available for sale.

Malcolm Porter

President CPAA



Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

ABN 63 939 614 424

Audited Financial Report

for the year ended

30 April 2026

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- ❖ Balance Sheet

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- ❖ 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 2026**

2024/25

2025/26

INCOME

147,532.69	Voluntary Contributions	142,660.06
15,052.81	Interest Received	11,367.60
-	Membership Dues	9,090.90
-	Honey Fighting Fund	4,545.45
	Grant Income	
7,500.00	AgriFutures Funding	-
20,000.00	Plant Health Australia	-
20,000.00	Berry Industry Pollination Funding Used	10,000.00
422,914.69	Transition to Management Program (T2M)	411,773.65
10,876.17	Unspent Grants Carried Forward	-
-	Less unspent as at 30 April	-
481,290.86		421,773.65
3,964.13	Miscellaneous Income	1,829.55

647,840.49

TOTAL INCOME

591,267.21

Less: EXPENDITURE

477.27	Advertising and Media Expenses	1,106.06
2,650.00	Audit Fees	2,800.00
1,300.77	Apimondia Membership	1,307.41
719.72	Bank & Eway Charges	837.49
6,300.00	Bookkeeping Fees	6,456.00
5,000.00	Congress Expenses	-
11,932.67	Honey Testing	-
1,874.49	Insurance	2,026.80
3,696.50	Meeting Expenses	2,599.28
3,783.76	Office Supplies, IT Equipment	4,510.51
296.70	Freight and Postage	-
15,000.00	Remuneration - Chairman	4,326.00
170,021.42	Remuneration - Executive Director/CEO	176,212.12
128,407.25	Remuneration - Varroa Response Coordinator	132,157.52
813.84	Subscriptions/Memberships	845.15
4,610.96	Sundry Expenses	1,384.22
752.76	Telephone & Internet Costs	752.76
229,007.26	Transition to Management Program (T2M) Costs	171,323.85
22,337.41	Travel Costs	19,705.67
3,246.27	WorkCover Insurance	3,454.03
505.87	Website Development & Maintenance	1,256.42
10,000.00	Berry Industry Pollination Expenses	-

622,734.92

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

533,061.29

\$ 25,105.57

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

\$ 58,205.92

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2026

30/04/2025

30/04/2026

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

519,534.42	Opening Balance as at 01 May	544,639.99
25,105.57	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	58,205.92
<u>\$ 544,639.99</u>	Closing Balance as at 30 April	<u>\$ 602,845.91</u>

Represented by:

CURRENT ASSETS

	Cash at Bank	
296,210.41	Bendigo Bank Cash Management Account	324,175.32
3,772.51	Bendigo Bank Debit Card Account	2,348.71
4,247.24	Bendigo Bank Not-for-Profit Everyday Account	4,247.24
159,132.06	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	164,964.18
37,748.14	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	39,446.76
91,353.85	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3	95,190.71
<u>592,464.21</u>		<u>630,372.92</u>
	Other Current Assets	
200.00	Invoices Receivable	2,192.44
<u>592,664.21</u>		<u>632,565.36</u>

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

-	Shares in B-Qual Australia Pty Limited - see Note	-
<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
592,664.21	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	632,565.36

Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES

38,099.89	Trade Payables including BAS	25,042.00
7,644.13	Net Current GST Payable to ATO	2,209.09
2,280.20	Superannuation Payable	2,468.36
-	Funding Received but not yet spent	-
<u>48,024.22</u>		<u>29,719.45</u>
<u>\$ 544,639.99</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 602,845.91</u>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2026

2024/25		2025/26
	<u>INCOME</u>	
21,392.18	Interest Received - Bank accounts	22,345.40
21,392.18	TOTAL INCOME	22,345.40
	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	
10,000.00	Biosecurity Expenses	
30,000.00	Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) loan written off per committee	
40,000.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-
<u>\$ (18,607.82)</u>	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$ 22,345.40</u>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2026

30/04/2025		30/04/2026
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
494,769.35	Opening Balance as at 01 May	476,161.53
<u>(18,607.82)</u>	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>22,345.40</u>
<u>\$ 476,161.53</u>	Closing Balance as at 30 April	<u>\$ 498,506.93</u>
Represented by:		
	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	Cash at Bank	
5,007.08	Bendigo Bank Working Account	5,007.08
465,726.68	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	487,819.88
5,427.77	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	5,679.97
<u>476,161.53</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>498,506.93</u>
-	<u>Less: LIABILITIES</u>	-
<u>\$ 476,161.53</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 498,506.93</u>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2026

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.

SHARES IN B-QUAL AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED

56,321 Ordinary shares at a cost of \$1.00 each	\$56,321.00
Less revaluations in 2009/2010 financial year	(\$56,221.00)
Less revaluation in 2012/2013 financial year	<u>(\$100.00)</u>
Net recorded value of investment	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2026

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 2026 and the results of the Association for the year ended 30 April 2026; abd
- 2) Have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.



Signature

Position: AHBIC Chair

Date: 25/06/2026



Signature

Position: AHBIC CEO

Date: 25/06/2026



Ramsey & Associates

Auditors & Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheets as at 30 April 2026, and the statements 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, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 April 2026 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 Opinion

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, intention 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: 19/06/2026



Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

**ANNUAL REPORT
2026**

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