



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News

March 2022

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

CONTRIBUTE HERE

Or use the form on the last page

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry that supports you



**REGISTRATIONS
ARE NOW
OPEN!**



4th AUSTRALIAN Bee Congress

CELEBRATING HONEY BEES

At the heart of a healthy Australia

8 - 11 June 2022

Rosehill Gardens, Sydney, NSW

www.australianbeecongress.com.au



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AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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

The following list recognises contributions received for the last 12 months.

A number of generous contributors wish to remain anonymous. We encourage beekeepers to support those packers, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.
Thank you to all our contributors & supporters. AHBIC appreciates your generous & ongoing support.

Friends of AHBIC – Voluntary Contributions

PLATINUM PLUS (0)

PLATINUM (2)

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

GOLD PLUS (9)

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

GOLD (12)

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

SILVER (24)

Australian Manuka Honey Association Ltd
Australian Quality Honey (Blue Hills Honey)
Australian Women in Beekeeping Club Inc
Barnes Apiaries
Bees Neez Apiaries
Boyd Apiaries P/L
Clarkes Bees & Honey P/L

Cooper, Casey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Ecrotek

Gells' Honey Maryborough
Honey Australia P/L

Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)

Le Feuvre, Danny
Manukalife Pty Ltd

McDonald, Eileen & Bob

Michie, Robert & Raelene

Nuplas P/L

Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ

R. Stephens Apiaries

Ruge Honey
Warral Apiaries P/L

West Coast Honey P/L

Gustare Honey Australia P/L
Hoskinson, HL & HM

Mew, Peter
Moran, Jessica

Nobbs, Courtney
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.

Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion

Wheat, Nathan

OTHER (4)

Copier, Aaron
Drake, Liam

Kassebaum Christopher

Rasmussen, Ivan

Did you expect your name to be listed here?

Please check your emails for a message from AHBIC inviting you to renew your contribution (AHBIC emails often end up in spam) or feel free to email [Danny](#).

BRONZE (13)

Archibald Honey P/L
Arkadieff, Murray

Australian Honeybee P/L

Cunial Beekeeping P/L

Fuller, Steve

G&A Apiaries

Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)

Holscher, Luke

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers

Lutze, Brett & Lynda

Masters, Neil & Sharon

Targett, Stephen

The House of Honey

NON-PUBLISHED Value (20)

Australian Virtual Hobby Beekeepers Conference 2021

Barton, Keith

Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies

Brenton, Daryl

Davis, Brenton

Evans, Trevor & Faye

Faithfull, Mark

Geelong Beekeepers

Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine

Honey Australia P/L

Hampton, Tom

Hivekeepers

Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L

Moggill Honey

Mumford, Dave & Wendy

Naicol P/L

Sorensen, Glen & Trevor

Southern Truck Centre

Tabulam Real Honey

The Tasmanian Honey Company

COPPER (18)

AB's Honey

Ballarat Regional Beekeepers

Bee all Natural

Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.

Carpenter, Ian

Clarke, Michael

Cooper, Barry

Costa, Daniel

De Jong, Wim

Griffin, Vic

Anonymous (24)

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM



1. As I write this unfortunately northern New South Wales is again being flooded. Hopefully there are no more hives lost this time. One of the articles can be seen at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-16/floods-destroy-nsw-beehives-devastating-industry/100910904>

Both the Queensland Beekeepers Association and New South Wales Apiarists Association have been providing their members with information on help that is available. This is the time when membership of your State association will help you.

2. The Executive have employed an agency to start the recruitment process for a new CEO. Also the AHBIC Council has met and decided to put a review in place to look at AHBIC.
3. The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers wrote to AHBIC, as a member body of Apimondia, and asked us to write to Apimondia requesting that the Apimondia meeting scheduled for Russia later this year be cancelled and that we ask for the Russian National Union of Beekeepers to be excluded from Apimondia.

AHBIC wrote to the President, Jeff Pettis, asking that the Apimondia scheduled for Russia this year be cancelled and that the Russian National Union of Beekeepers be suspended from Apimondia. You will see in this newsletter the response from Apimondia to our letter and representations made by many other beekeeping groups around the world.

4. Rod Turner has been a part of Plant Health Australia (PHA) for as long as I can remember. Rod has been involved with us on many projects over the years. Rod is now taking leave and at the end of that leave is retiring. We wish Rod all the best for his retirement and thank him for his contributions over the years.
5. The planning is now in full swing for this year's 4th Australian Bee Congress in Sydney from 8-11 June. The website is continually being updated with more information so check often. I hope you have registered. Remember that the earlybird registration closes on 22 April.
6. Today is the last day to nominate for the Australian Beekeeper Award. Hopefully you have considered this and put in a nomination. See <https://honeybee.org.au/shining-the-spotlight-on-australias-beekeepers/>
7. Our acting CEO Danny and I took part in a productive hook-up with the Agricultural Policy Division of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). There were several areas identified where industry needs some input and AHBIC is to supply details to DAWE.

NOTE FROM ACTING CEO, Danny Le Feuvre



It's been a busy few months at AHBIC. Over the last month we have submitted three government consultation paper submissions, met with DAWE and corresponded with the department on many issues. Issues including the importation of honey, developing new export markets, national security briefing and participated in the launch of the NEXDOC online platform and the National Agricultural Market Intelligence Hub (NAMI HUB).

Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE)

AHBIC has been writing to DAWE highlighting the high level of imported honey from NZ and also more recently Malaysia. We have questioned what testing is occurring and raising strong concerns about the extremely low value of the imported honey resulting in speculation around quality. This robust conversation is continuing as AHBIC is pushing for more testing of this imported honey. The newly launched NAMI HUB will be a useful tool in monitoring the importation of honey. The platform allows filtering of a range of parameters and provides some nice info graphics. As we learn how to use this new tool we will share the outputs.

Round table meetings

I attended a couple of round table meetings in Canberra with DAWE. The first being a national security briefing and the impacts the geopolitical instability could have on ag industries. The second was around developing Indonesia as a new large export destination. The strong message from the security briefing was that we can no longer rely on China as being the number one export destination and we need to diversify our customers. This lead into Indonesia as being one of the destinations we could diversify into. Some fast facts about Indonesia – 4th most populous country and the third largest economy in the world. Its 270 million population will increase by more than the size of Australia's population by the end of the decade to over 300 million!! Indonesia already imports significant volumes of honey and there is the opportunity for our industry to develop a strong footprint in that market. More info <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/trade-and-investment/blueprint-trade-and-investment-indonesia>

Congress

The congress organising is well under way. The 4 days will be jammed packed with information and activities. A reminder that **early bird registration closes on the 22nd April**. We have over 50 speakers confirmed so far and a huge range of trade exhibitors. The Bee Tech Challenge (see advert) will give delegates an insight into what is possible and the trade stands will showcase what is already available for industry.

Congress Scholarships

AHBIC has partnered with AgriFutures to make 5 scholarships available for people wanting to attend the congress. The scholarships will provide full registration and a \$300 bursary to assist in travel and accommodation expenses. To apply go to: <https://honeybee.org.au/scholarship-to-attend-4th-australian-bee-congress-2022/>

Shout out

A big thank you to the congress organising committee for the boat load of work that has been done so far especially Shona Blair (Chair) and Therese Kershaw (Trade and Sponsorship). The hours Therese has put into the congress is astonishing and I thank her for all the time and effort.

Scam Alert

Finally, I have been made aware of a fraudulent email claiming to be from AHBIC and B-Qual circulating. We are getting to the bottom of the issue but be aware it is a scam! Delete if it is not from the AHBIC email.

HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA)

G'day,

WA beekeepers are finishing the red gum season and enjoying the cooler weather, which has bought a teaser of rain to start autumn.

There are a couple of internal projects BICWA is currently focusing on. This is the consideration and funding of an interim CEO and the development a Communication and Marketing plan, tight in with the new membership program. We look forward to reporting on these soon – hopefully, all good news.

We are waiting on the DRAFT monofloral standard definition for Jarrah and Marri, which is getting finalised now and are due for circulation in April. With the CRC for Honey Bee Products closing by the end of this financial year, a few project outcomes and presentations are expected. The most recent presentation, Developing the story for WA honey, is found on our webpage: <https://www.bicwa.com.au/research-news-updates>

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) planning group invites BICWA as an industry key stakeholder to provide input in a FOCUS group. These groups are set up to capture feedback for the draft FMP and will include forest health and biodiversity, climate change and the values and use of the south-west forests. Meetings will start at the end of April with a concurrent survey for public comments.

WA started an investigation into cheap import honey, which recently showed up in one of WAs fruit and veggie markets. The honey testing results and WA import regulation outcomes are expected in early April.

As you are aware, there is no standard definition for RAW and UNPROCESSED honey in Australia in place. The BICWA board has taken the time to establish a discussion paper for AHBICs consideration. We look forward to playing an active role in this discussion.

Talk to you next month, and don't forget to subscribe to [our webpage](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

Regards,
Brendon Fewster
Chair



4th AUSTRALIAN Bee Congress

CELEBRATING HONEY BEES

At the heart of a healthy Australia

www.australianbeecongress.com.au

8 - 11 June 2022

Rosehill Gardens, Sydney, NSW

2022 AGM and Conference Dates

New South Wales Apiarists Association	7 th June – Rydges Parramatta
Bee Industry Council of WA	TBA (face to face cancelled)
Queensland Beekeepers Association	23 rd -24 th June – Warwick RSL
Victorian Apiarists Association	20 th -21 st May – Yorke on Lilydale
South Australian Apiarists Association	31 st May – Murray Bridge
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	27 th -28 th - Launceston
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	12 th June – Nesuto Apartment Hotel - Parramatta

AHBIC AGM

Want to have a say in your industry? Consider stepping up and nominating for a position on AHBIC.

Chair

Currently – Trevor Weatherhead (will not be renominating).

Executive Positions

- Peter Barnes – eligible to renominate.
- Ben McKee – eligible to renominate.

To nominate for Chair the following process applies form the constitution:

7.7 Nominations of candidates for election as Chair of AHBIC:-

- a) shall be made in writing, signed by one voting delegate and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.
- b) each nominee may submit a two hundred (200) word statement.
- c) the nomination shall be delivered to the Secretary not less than twenty eight days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting. All delegates are to be notified of all nominations at least fourteen days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting.
- d) If no nominations are received as required under sub-rules 7.7 (a) and 7.7 (c), nominations shall be taken from the floor at the next Annual General Meeting.

Observers

Observers are allowed at the AHBIC AGM but any observers MUST register with AHBIC and pay the associated cost (TBA).

EXTENSIONAUS

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

SCHOLARSHIPS/PROGRAMS

AgriFutures Company Directors Course applications

AgriFutures Australia currently has an opportunity open to participate in the [Australian Institute of Company Directors Course™](#).

Applications open on Monday, 21 March 2022 and close Tuesday, 12 April 2022.

More information for Levied Industries ↗ <https://bit.ly/3qkYWKc>

EXPORT DOCUMENTATION ONLINE!!

AHBIC has been working with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to implement the NEXDOC system for the honey bee industry. The NEXDOC portal is a direct means for exporters to apply for export certification, with the department. The portal is accessed through the department's [online services](#). The portal is a free platform offered by the department to obtain your export certification. Once registered your name and address will be included as the exporter/owner on any documents generated for you.

As of Monday 28 March 2022, honey and apiculture products to Malaysia will also be available on the portal. We will incrementally onboard additional countries and commodities who require export certification.



NEWSLETTER

March 2022 / 2

New Venue, New Web Page, New Discounted Fees!

Revised web page of 47th Apimondia Congress is active on www.apimondia2021.com
There are important changes in the fees and also in the program.

VENUE

Istanbul Congress Center is a seven floor facility with a 119,500 sqm area. Located on the 6th and the 7th floors, there is a parking lot with a capacity of 850 vehicles.

Location of the Congress Valley is allowing the participants easy access to municipal, domestic and international transportation networks. There are dozens of three, four and five-star hotels for a combined total of over 12,000 rooms within walking distance to Congress center.

Congress Center Web Page is www.iccistanbul.com



Export certification for honey and apiculture products to Malaysia

Export certificate applications will move to the new NEXDOC system from 28 March.

If you are exporting honey or apiculture products, such as bee wax, to Malaysia your export certification is moving to the NEXDOC system.

Benefits of NEXDOC:

- Replaces manual applications and certificates with a faster online system
- Print certificates in your own office
- You can track the status of your application
- QR code security on certificates
- Electronic certificates have lower documentation charges.

Next steps:

Join us for an online information session to find out more. A link to join the sessions will be available on the NEXDOC webpage prior to the sessions.

Online session times		
Wednesday	2 March	10.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	11 March	1.00pm - 3.00pm
Tuesday	15 March	10.00am - 12.00pm
Thursday	24 March	1.00pm - 3.00pm
Tuesday	29 March	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday	7 April	10.00am - 12.00pm

Further information

Email: nexdoc@awe.gov.au

Go to: www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/certification/nexdoc



Agricultural
Trade Reform

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AWS-AU-1022

awe.gov.au

Bee Tech Challenge

2022

Do you have the
technology that bees need?

Pitch your tech today.

The Bee Tech Challenge is searching for market ready technology which provides solutions to key issues facing the industry including biosecurity, hive health, hive safety, and bushfire protection and preparedness.

Facilitated by the AgriFutures Honey Bee and Pollination Program, the Bee Tech Challenge is connecting beekeepers with startups, scaleups and innovators to support a brighter future for our bees.

Finalists will showcase and pitch their technology to beekeepers and other industry professionals at this year's 4th Australian Bee Congress in Sydney. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to vote for the technology that they see as most relevant and useful for the beekeeping industry.

Applications are open now,
closing at 12 noon AEST on 20 April 2022.



AgriFutures
Honey Bee
& Pollination



Learn more
agrifutures.com.au/bee-tech-challenge

Read the T&Cs before you apply.

Scan the QR code
for more information.



Apimondia Update - March 2022

Jodie Goldsworthy - Apimondia Oceania President

Apimondia Congress 2022 - Ufa Russia Cancelled - new location Istanbul - Turkey

The Apimondia Executive Council has held a number of emergency Executive Council Meetings since the Russian invasion of Ukraine with the sole agenda of discussing the developments in Russia given the fact that our 47th Apimondia Congress was scheduled to be hosted in 6 months in Ufa, Russia. The Executive Council unanimously agreed to cancel the 47th Apimondia Congress in Russia given the terrible events the world is witnessing.

The Executive have now carefully worked through all aspects involved with unwinding such a major complex global event and have now resolved to find a new venue in Europe to allow a congress to continue in 2022 given the fact that the last Apimondia event was held in 2019 (Montreal, Canada).

The event will now be held in Istanbul Turkey between 24th & 28th August with a theme "Bees Unite the World". This event will be a hybrid event where some sessions will be live streamed to registered delegates all around the world making the scientific sessions accessible to beekeepers despite the logistical challenges of global travel in the present environment.

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

Our thoughts are with Ukrainian Beekeepers

Many will remember the hospitality of the Ukrainian beekeepers when the congress was held in Kiev in 2013. Apimondia has been in correspondence with our Ukrainian beekeeping friends and we are moving to set up a mechanism to collect donations to support the people and Ukrainian beekeepers. At this stage support can be directed to Bees for Development, a registered charity who Apimondia previously worked with to direct donations to the African region after the big earthquake in Haiti.

We are also aware that some European beekeepers are registering with their own countries' governments to welcome Ukrainian refugees in their own homes and farms during these very difficult times.

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.

Joint Planning for the global World Bee Day Celebrations

Global World Bee Day celebrations centre around joint activities between Apimondia and FAO. FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations whose mission it is to lead international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. World Bee Day allows for Apimondia and FAO to work together on the topic of bees and to utilise the networks and strengths of both organisations for the betterment of beekeeping and agriculture worldwide through both FAO's and Apimondia's objectives. In past years important declarations and documents have been forthcoming from government representatives in attendance. In a virtual world plans will take into account the ability for the event to be live streamed around the world.

Apimondia / FAO Collaborations - Two Joint Publications:

How Beekeeping Contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (https://www.apiservices.biz/documents/articles-en/beekeeping_contributes_sdg.pdf)

The Apimondia Executive worked in collaboration with FAO to jointly publish a global summary of how beekeeping contributes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with each of the Apimondia Executive acting as contributing authors to the publication. The publication states that "beekeeping is an activity that can have an impact on all the 17 SDGs in consideration of the possibility it offers to improve food production systems from the most subsistence production methods to the highly developed technological advanced systems. It can do so without creating pollution or waste. It has a positive impact on biodiversity. Beekeeping brings people together and Apimondia assists in the global dissemination of knowledge about all 17 goals."

I have now received a small number of hard copies of this publication. If any Association in our region wishes to receive a copy for their library or archive, please contact me and I can pass the limited hard copies amongst those who are interested.

Good Beekeeping Practices for Sustainable Apiculture

This latest Apimondia FAO collaborative publication is available from <https://www.apimondia.org/latest/good-beekeeping-practices-for-sustainable-apiculture>. In particular the Apimondia Working Group on Honey Adulteration, along with the wider Executive Council worked extensively with FAO to ensure that the guidelines were consistent with the Apimondia Statement on Honey Fraud and that good beekeeping practices were aligned to produce high quality safe products from the hive. Many voluntary hours of proofreading, writing and fact checking were contributed by the members of the Apimondia Executive.

Two other key Apimondia / FAO projects continue

1. **Apimondia are working with FAO to deliver four Biodiversity workshops** aimed at linking regional government officials, farmers and beekeeper pollinators. The workshops will be held in Latin America, Ghana, Philippines and North Africa. 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 development of 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 has recently 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.

New Apimondia Website

Apimondia is pleased to now have on board a **Communications Officer** who has done a splendid job of building a new website and who is now working to support the volunteer efforts that bring newsletters and events to beekeepers globally. Take the time to look at the new Apimondia website when you have a chance.

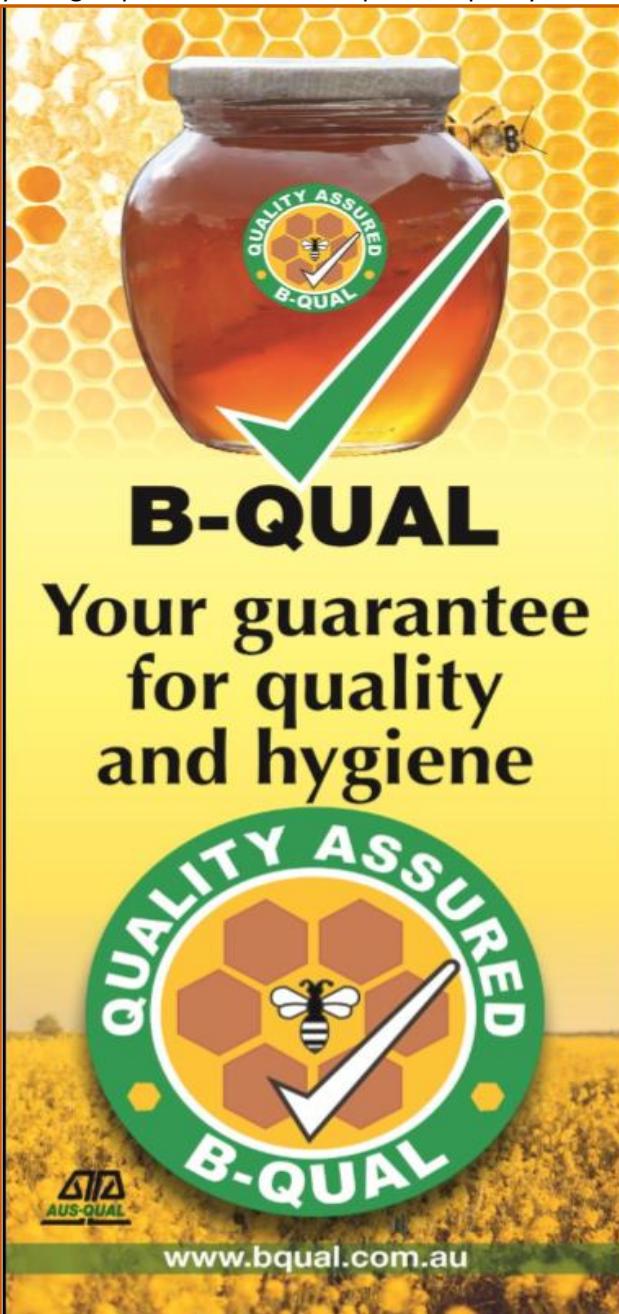
<https://www.apimondia.org/>

Stay safe and well everyone.

Jodie

B-QUAL

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



B-QUAL Industry Owned Quality Assurance System

HOW DOES B-QUAL CERTIFICATION BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?

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

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

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

Contribution Details

Name:

Address:

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

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

Phone: Date:

Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

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

Please circle YES/NO to the following:

1. The AHBIC newsletter lists contributors
 - i. Publish your name YES / NO
 - ii. Publish the contribution amount YES / NO
2. I would like to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter YES / NO

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you