

B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd and B-TRACE Australia

ABN: 37 096 945 694

Manager of the Australian Honey Industry QA and Food Handling programs.

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B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd and B-TRACE Australia
are owned by AHBIC.
The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

General enquiries for B-QUAL & B-TRACE:

Office: All enquiries.

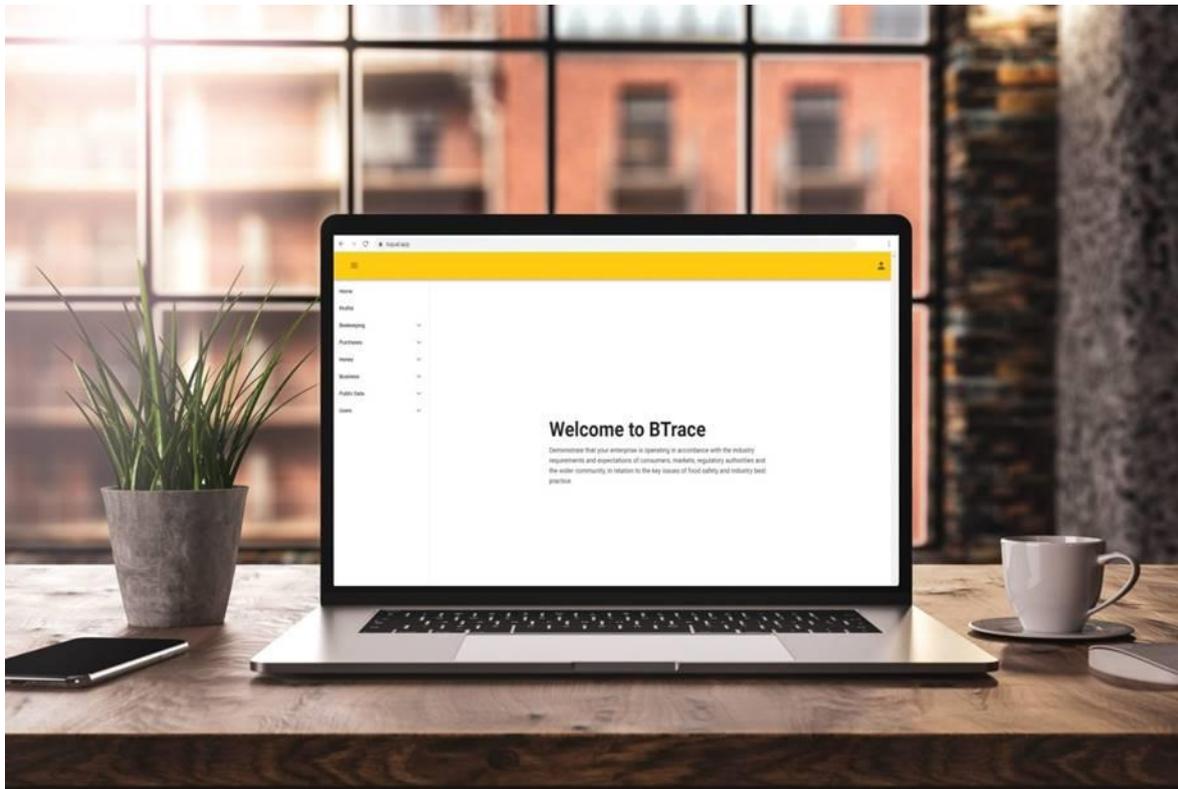
B-QUAL email: admin@bqual.com.au

B-TRACE email: admin@btrace.com.au

Phone: 07 4994 9820

www.bqual.com.au

www.btrace.com.au



If you have not applied for access to the hive management app. Do so and see how easy it is to keep records and hive data to ensure you are meeting all code and state governments requirements. to access just email B-QUAL or B-TRACE and request app setup.

We have an app guide which will assist you to get the best out of its operation.

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B-QUAL:

We have a number of B-QUAL applicants who have applied, paid subscriptions but as yet not completed their 2 x self-assessments. The assessments are in the first section of the B-QUAL Approved Supplier Manual, if you are in this category, we suggest that to get full benefit of membership and accreditation complete the assessments and return to admin@bqual.com.au. If you have paid a membership subscription but not yet purchased the Approved Supplier Manual you will need to purchase to advance to certification stage.

Should you require any assistance at all do not hesitate to contact our office.

For direct audit enquires or audit bookings members can use admin@safefoodaustralia.com.au as a more direct contact method.

B-TRACE:

A number of B-TRACE members are due to submit their audit form, if you have not completed an audit, please contact admin@btrace.com.au and request an audit form. You need to complete your audit for access to use logo labels which are a great marketing tool. You can also download the online audit form from the member section of B-TRACE web site.

Honey Testing:

Honey testing is still underway for our Australian honey database, we are seeking samples of particularly Iron Bark and Yellow Box. However, we will take samples of any variety as long as you have identified it, and can supply the scientific name. Email the office for collection data sheets, jars and prepaid envelopes. We invite B-QUAL and B-TRACE members to contribute. Testing for the library is free of charge. For further information contact admin@bqual.com.au

General news:

Our new Directors Professor Sharon Purchase and Dr Liz Barbour are both attending and presenting at the VAA and SAAA conferences and will give information and up to date research, marketing, quality and traceability presentations.

In addition to the State conference visits, Sharon and Liz are working on improving our database access for Australian Honey which we have compiled over the last 3 years; with our government grant. Testing results are being added in such a way that the data can be more easily recorded and accessed.

We are still continuing testing and call out for any eucalypt honey varieties from all states. So, if you have not submitted a sample please consider and send us a request for samples jars and self-addressed packing. Test results will be sent to you, but inputting in the library data base is anonymous, your name, location and all details are not be divulged.

If you know of someone who is not a member of B-QUAL or B-TRACE suggest to them to visit our websites and consider what they can get out of membership to help them achieve good business aims. It is now more important than ever that beekeepers be kept up to date on record keeping and good husbandry of their stock. Our app is proving very popular in making record keeping easier for members.

GENERAL NEWS:

B-QUAL continues to gain industry, government, and public acknowledgement and is now seen as an important component of the Australian Honey Industry.

Currently B-QUAL is involved in some important committees that will have effect on our industry, including;

*GS1 Traceability and Standards

*Victorian Government Orchard integration program

*Imported honey committee

*Contributor to the Australian Agriculture Traceability Research and Development Group.

* Australian Food Standards FT-039 Bee Products Committee

* Contributing input into other industry and research projects.

In addition, we have contributed sponsorship money to assist with the following State Conferences.

Crop Pollination Association of Australia

Victorian Apiarist Association

South Australian Apiarist Association

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association

BICWA/AAA conference.

Annual Fees:

Invoices for B-QUAL annual membership fee for 2024/2025 will be sent out in July, and the board are pleased to announce, there will be no increase this year all fees remain unchanged at \$ 219.50 incl GST. Audits also remain unchanged. We remind members that we are continuing with remote audits and encourage all who are qualified to audit remotely as it will result in a cheaper audit cost by way of eliminating all miscellaneous costs such as travel, accommodation and etc.

Members may also note we have a new office landline number 07 4994 9820

Our Sponsors:

We acknowledge and thank Steritech and the CMV Group for their valuable ongoing support of B-QUAL and B-TRACE which assists us to continue to participate in research and industry development works which we see as important to our industry.



CMV
TRUCK CENTRE



CMVFARMS



Please support those who support us.

Asian honey bees detected in outer southern Townsville

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed the presence of two separate detections of [Asian honey bee](#) (*Apis cerana*) in the outer southern suburbs of Townsville.

All the bees collected have tested negative for exotic bee viruses including slow bee paralysis virus, deformed wing virus, acute bee paralysis virus and *Apis mellifera* rhabdovirus. No [varroa mite](#) have been found on the bees.

Genetic testing has also confirmed both populations are genetically linked to the endemic Cairns population and unlikely to be the result of a new incursion. With the current known southern extent of the Cairns population being Cardwell, these new detections indicate human assisted movement and not natural spread.



Surveillance activities are continuing to determine if there are any new swarms or nests of Asian honey bees, and targeted engagement activities will soon commence.

We would like to thank the Townsville beekeeper who reported the Asian honey bee sighting.

Look, report, protect

All Queensland beekeepers are being asked to:

- report all sightings outside of the known infested area (Mossman to Cardwell) of [Asian honey bees](#), wild (feral) nests or swarms, or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- NOT collect, touch or move any swarming bees and report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23
- stay up to date with the latest information by subscribing to the [bee e-alert](#)
- [register as a biosecurity entity](#), whether you have one hive or one hundred
- continue monitoring hives for varroa mite using the alcohol wash method (at least every 16 weeks)
- report your hive check using the quick and easy [Bee 123 form](#), even if you do not find any suspect mites
- immediately report unexpected hive deaths, deformed bees, bees with parasites, poor brood patterns and dead brood to Biosecurity Queensland.

For further information, visit daf.qld.gov.au/varroa. For enquiries, please contact varroa@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Content acknowledgement: Biosecurity Queensland

AUDITS

We advise that arrangements have been made in association with our auditors, that we can now conduct JAS-ANZ certified audits for those members exporting to countries that require JAS-ANZ accredited audits.

Chairmans Message

Lately a lot of us have been busy attending various state conferences. In May I started with the Crop Pollination Association of Australia (CPAA) conference in Wagga Wagga NSW. This was well presented with a great line up of international guest speakers. One of the topics discussed was about contracts. I took from this an opening for a need for B-QUAL accredited pollinators i.e. proof that you can provide quality pollination services. Stay tuned!

Next day was the DPI run varroa workshop specifically for commercial beekeepers. This is the 2nd and improved workshop I have attended. Even if you haven't attended one yet, I feel it is worthwhile attending these courses, if possible, to give you an insight on how to deal with the mite in your hives

Following these days was the NSWAA conference which was well attended and of course the focus was on varroa. A number of the New Zealand speakers discussed how they managed varroa. Of course, management will differ in different areas but one I found interesting was the need to make a lot more nucs in the spring to put in the hives in autumn. B-QUAL will be of utmost importance with varroa management because of the need for accurate record keeping especially for chemical usage – some cannot be used in conjunction with other chemicals and also tracking if certain chemicals appear in honey or wax testing.

At the time of writing, we have not yet been affected but we are getting ready including updating any paperwork we may need. Lucky B-QUAL has most of this covered. We are certainly in for exciting times

I would like to welcome our 2 new board members – Dr Liz Barbour CEO of Y-TRACE Honey Bee Products Research and Testing and Sharon Purchase Professor at the UWA Business School both from Uni of Western Australia. They have been involved with us for the last few years researching, developing the honey library, traceability and marketing They bring a wealth of knowledge and resources to the board moving forward.

On a personal note, I would like thank Rodney Ruge for his many years of service to B-QUAL both as a board member and before. He and his family have been heavily involved in the industry on many levels benefitting us all. Rodney -you will be missed but not forgotten. Best wishes for the future from all of us

Best wishes to all

Wayne Fuller

Chairman B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd,



Video recordings of the presentations at the recent VAA Annual Conference are available and can be accessed via the VAA YouTube channel at youtube.com/@VictorianApiaristsAssociation or from the [video library](#) page on VAA website.

Included are the symposia on honey testing and varroa management with the latter providing much useful practical experience and information.

VAA Conference.



Section of the fully sold-out VAA convention audience held at Wonthaggi Workman's Club 4-6th June 2024



Q&A panel discussion lead by Steve Fuller President Crop Pollination Association Australia.



Comprehensive well stocked trade display.



Sharon Purchase, Liz Barbour B-QUAL Directors both presented at the conference. Seen here taking a break with Steve Fuller President CPAA and Dr Arbind Agraharibaniya from Agriculture Victoria Research (DFEECA) Bee-to – tree project for Orchard chemical use in relation to beehive health and movements.

The Board is committed to try and introduce initiatives that will have tangible benefits to all of our members some of these measures include:

1. Approaching Australian packers and distributors in an effort to negotiate a greater increase premium price for B-QUAL members.
Although we have a current list of packers we would appreciate if members emailed us with the name and phone or email address, of any packer you sell to or know of as we want the most comprehensive list we can build. **We will not divulge your name to any contact.**
Although involving more detailed effort we consider it better to approach packers on an individual basis to negotiate than via one group.
2. Working to form closer associations with sub groups such as The Crop Pollination and Queen Breeders and other industry and associated groups.
3. Continued approaches to major insurance companies to try and obtain discounts on basis of BQUAL record keeping, HACCP and Biosecurity risk reduction.
4. Broadly promote the B-QUAL brand.

B-QUAL offers the full suite of industry audits

B-QUAL Standards and HACCP
HACCP certification
Organic Audits
JAS-ANZ Audits



Safe Food Australia report that there are some members with outstanding CARs please remember that certificates will not be issued until all outstanding CARs are completed and signed off, and the audit bill paid.

If you are having difficulty in completing outstanding CARs talk to the auditors who are anxious to assist.

Current B-QUAL Directors.

Wayne Fuller	Chairman	NSW	Prof Sharon Purchase	WA
Paul Costa	CO-Managing Director,	NSW	Dr Liz Barbour	WA
Stephen Targett		NSW	Don Muir	CO-Managing Director, Vic

All can be contacted by email admin@bqual.com.au



Call for Participation

Agriculture Victoria Research’s Bee-To-Tree project is seeking Almond growers and beekeepers to test the functionality of a secure data sharing service between orchards and apiaries throughout the 2024 Almond pollination season.

To be a part of the trial, we require Almond growers who are users of GrowData’s chemical spray diaries who will be contracting beekeepers that are registered BQual users. And we require beekeepers who are registered BQual / BTrace members who will be moving hives into or within 5 km of Almond orchards that are active users of GrowData’s spray diary application for recording chemical use. If you are interested, please contact us at Kieran.murphy@agriculture.vic.gov.au or arbind.agraharibanija@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Aim

Partner with pollination service providers and horticulture growers to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of capturing and sharing information regarding orchard chemical applications in relation to beehive movements and health.

Industry Integration Approach



Data Collection	Use unique identifiers to support data standard for hive health inspection and movements Allow beekeepers to input hive temperature and humidity as optional fields when creating hive inspection records	Use unique identifiers to support data standards for chemical event Ensure chemical event data being collected complies with regulatory requirements
Data Management and Storage	Data processed and stored in standards format in existing databases	Data processed and stored in standards format in existing databases
Location-enabled Feature	Proximity analysis to identify orchards within 5km radius of hive presence	Proximity analysis to identify hive loads within a 5km radius of orchard row/block
Data Sharing	Receive data requests and allow sharing with selected orchards within a proximal distance Send requests and obtain chemical data from orchards within a proximal distance	Receive data requests and allow sharing with selected apiarists within a proximal distance Send requests and obtain hive health data from hives within a proximal distance
Data Ownership and Privacy	Data sharing permission controlled by apiarist Data sharing voluntarily	Data sharing permission controlled by farmer Data sharing voluntarily

Enhancements for Data Sharing to be Made Available via Existing Apps

Example Functionality for Orchards using GrowData System

Data Access/Sharing Hives Within 5 km Radius

Hive Name	Contact Person	Send Request	Received Data	Received Request	Shared Data
1. Midtura Plastic Load 1	Hao Xu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Midtura Timber Load 1	August	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hives within 5kms radius (Click on the Hive to view/receive data)

Historical Data sharing

Hive Name	Contact Person	Last Access Timestamp	Last Shared Timestamp	Contacts
1. Midtura Plastic Load 1	Hao	03/03/2023	24/12/2022	xxxxxx@gmail.com
2. Midtura Timber Load 2	August	10/03/2023	02/03/2023	xxxxxx@gmail.com
3. Tatura Plastic Load 1	Arbind	15/04/2023	05/06/2023	xxxxx@outlook.com
4. Tatura Plastic Load 2	Kieran	25/03/2023	15/03/2023	xxxxxx@gmail.com

Example Functionality for Apiaries using BQual System

Data Access/Sharing Orchards Within 5 km Radius

Orchard Name	Contact Person	Send Request	Received Data	Received Request	Shared Data
1. Tatura Smart Farm	Hao Xu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Prima Fresh Orchard	August	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Tatura Orchard	Arbind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Shepparton Orchard	Kieran	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Orchards within 5kms radius (Click on the Farm to view/receive data)

Historical Data sharing

Orchard Name	Contact Person	Last Access Timestamp	Last Shared Timestamp	Contacts
1. Tatura Smart Farm	Hao	03/03/2023	24/12/2022	xxxxxx@gmail.com
2. Prima Fresh Orchard	August	10/03/2023	02/03/2023	xxxxxx@gmail.com
3. Tatura Orchard	Arbind	15/04/2023	05/06/2023	xxxxx@outlook.com
4. Shepparton Orchard	Kieran	25/03/2023	15/03/2023	xxxxxx@gmail.com

What’s Next

Planned tests during the next Almond Pollination Season with BQual and GrowData users

Iterative enhancements to address identified gaps during tests from apiarists and grower feedbacks

Compliance with the [Australian Farm Data Code](#) and the Food Agility CRC’s [Data Sharing Agreement template](#) to ensure a fair best practice contract template for data sharing