



Member Survey – October 2022

Q1. Why did you join STBA? Answered - 81 Skipped - 1

- To learn more about keeping bees
- Access to a network of folk with good knowledge willing to share
- Sister Hives
- To support the industry and beekeeping
- To undertake beekeeping training
- Looking for like-minded bee keepers
- Keep up to date with what is happening in the industry, news and events

Q2. Please indicate how important networking is for you? Ans – 81 Skip - 1

- Extremely valuable – 22
- Very Valuable – 29
- Somewhat valuable – 27
- Not so valuable – 3

Q3. Please rate 1 to 5 which networking methods have been most valuable?

Ans – 79 Skip – 3

1. Field Days
2. Member catch ups
3. Speakers
4. Sister Hives
5. Local Area Networks

Q4. OPT – What other networking methods have been valuable? Ans – 43

Skip – 39

- Internet / webinars
- Courses
- Talking to senior experienced beekeepers
- Sister Hives and Local area networks
- Online groups through Facebook
- Newsletter
- One on one mentoring
- Field days

Q5. Please indicate how important strengthening your beekeeping knowledge is to you? Ans - 81 Skip – 1

- Extremely important 44
- Very important 28
- Somewhat important 9

Q6. To assist us in developing educational sessions, please rate 1 to 5 how your bee husbandry knowledge can best be strengthened? Ans – 81 Skip – 1

1. Field Days & farm visits
2. Monthly general meeting
3. Industry workshops
4. Basic training
5. Skills workshop

Q7.OPT- Are there any other ways your bee husbandry knowledge can be strengthened? Ans – 38 Skip – 44

- More workshops on single subjects
- Skills info in newsletters
- Online availability of training
- Reading and mentoring
- Info shared via emails
- Courses in queen rearing
- Record monthly meetings to view later

Q8. Please indicate 3 topics which are most relevant to you? Ans – 81 Skip – 1

1. Disease id and management
2. Seasonal management
3. Queen rearing

Comments

- Basic beekeeping in simple language
- Overall hive management
- Plant id
- Mentoring and promoting beekeeping
- Harvesting
- Insurance issues
- Natural beekeeping
- Mentoring

Q9. OPT – Please indicate any issues you feel STBA can advocate for you? Ans – 46 Skip – 36

- Climate change, urbanisation and the loss of green space
- Saving leatherwood
- Promote diversity
- Reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides in the state
- Forestry impacts
- Agricultural and domestic garden practices that impact bees
- Educate the public

**Q10. Communication you receive or have received from the STBA? Ans – 78
Skip - 4**

- Content was/is useful 22
- Enjoyed being kept up to date – 42
- Could be better – 10
- Other - 11
 - Love the newsletter
 - Communication could be streamlined and modernised – simple language and less clutter makes it more accessible for everyone.
 - The bee news has been a word salad. I am heartened it is on hold.
 - Can't find minutes and correspondence for Exec meetings
 - I'd like to tick all 3 boxes

**Q11. What do you think are the biggest issues facing Tasmanian Beekeepers?
Ans – 73 Skip – 9**

- Keeping varroa mite out of Tasmania
- Climate change
- Continual threat of disease from mainland imports
- Ensuring food security
- Lack of volunteers
- Destruction of leatherwood forests
- Unseasonal weather conditions
- Need to improve advocacy and have a louder respected voice

Q12. What do you think are our core values? Ans – 65 Skip 17

- Solidarity and inclusiveness
- Looking after beekeepers at all levels – hobby to professional
- Bee and beekeeper support and community
- Transparency, integrity, diversity and inclusion, learning, teamwork, delivery to members
- Sustainability and ethical practise
- Education – for beekeepers and public

Q13. What is your vision for our orgn? Ans – 41 Skip – 41

- Unity and community
- Educational, inclusive and to promote beekeeping
- Care of bees, care of environment, community education and participation
- To promote responsible beekeeping

Q14. SWOT Analysis – Ans – 64 Skip – 18

Strengths

- Diversity and inclusive membership
- Large membership, depth of experience

- Sole industry body
- Passionate people who love to share their knowledge freely

Weakness

- Lack of volunteers at times to do specific tasks
- Trying to do too many things for too many different reasons
- Personality clashes
- Intimidating for beginners

Threats

- Internal politics – a few members dominate meetings so quieter members are not heard
- Too many inactive members
- Cheap watered down honey imports
- Changing environment

Opportunities

- Can be a big lobby group
- Greater advocacy
- Increasing popularity beekeeping
- Have a disaster management plan

Q15. How do you think we can add value to our members? Ans – 59 Skip – 23

- Funds sitting in bank accounts should be used for benefit of members
- Concentrate on training and q and a
- Knowledge and access to good priced equipment
- Guest speakers and topics for monthly meeting being recorded
- Active field days and hands on learning opportunities

Q16. Do you think the membership fees are reasonable and reflect value for money?

Ans – 80 Skip – 2

- Yes 70
- No 1
- Other 9

Comments

- Fees are cheap compared to other organisations
- Too low – need 20% increase to development fund
- We would pay more if we could access online classes
- Could be higher

Q17. Would you be interested in broader participation? For example: the executive, committees, volunteering? Ans – 77 Skip – 5

- Yes 8
- No 16
- Other 13

Comments

- Sorry – just don't have time or expertise at present
- Maybe in the future
- Live too far away
- At some stage – yes

Q18. To help us shape our strategic plan, please rate all the following potential investments by preference? Ans – 78 Skip – 4

Top 5 responses

1. Educating the public
2. Sponsor beekeeping activities
3. Speakers
4. Sponsored work placement
5. Upskilling members

Least popular response

- Purchase a property

Comments

- Rent a commercial property / warehouse for the association – storage of STBA paraphernalia, room for meetings, demonstrations and social events
- Access to leatherwood sites for members
- STBA should not purchase a property for HQ

Q19. In terms of the relationship of the STBA with other beekeeping orgn would you support constitutional amendments to allow other similar orgns to affiliate with the STBA? Ans – 80 Skip – 2

- Yes – 55
- No – 7
- Other – 20

Comments

- Case by case basis
- Alignment with STBA core values
- Maybe only if it did not dilute the current objectives and cause us to be side-tracked
- Not clear about implications

Q20. Would you support the STBA affiliating with other regional and national beekeeping orgns? Ans – 81 Skip – 1

- Yes – 64
- No 4
- Other 13

Comments

- Must not allow a complete takeover
- Provided there was a clear understanding of the governance of the orgn and they fit the democratic model
- Don't know enough of the politics to hold an opinion

Q21. If the STBA were to allow other assoc to affiliate would you support a name change to reflect a broader geographic representation? Ans – 78

Skip – 4

- Yes 57
- No 21

Q22. OPT: Do you have skills you are willing to share with STBA? Ans – 20

skip – 62

- Yes 5
- Please specify 19

Comments

- Yes do have skills but not willing to share in current climate
- I have some marketing and promotional skills
- Seeking grants and funding from governments and industries
- No skills that would be beneficial

Q23. Would you support maximum terms for the STBA president and/or executive committee members? Ans – 74 Skip - 8

- Yes – 50
- No – 24

