

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

AGENDA

*Meeting scheduled Monday, 29th July 2024 at 6.30pm Glenorchy
Linc, Meeting Room 1*

- 1.0 Welcome and Apologies:**
- 2.0 Remembrance Pause**
- 3.0 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting on 28th August 2023 & Matters Arising**
- 4.0 President's Report & Matters Arising**
- 5.0 Financial Report & Matters Arising**
- 6.0 Appointment of Auditor**
- 7.0 Confirmation of Patron**
- 8.0 Election of Officers for 2024/2025**
 - **President**
 - **Vice President**
 - **Secretary**
 - **Treasurer**
 - **Membership Officer**

9.0 Election of Other Members of the Executive: 5 Members

Nominations for the positions above need to be made according to the STBA constitution as below and sent to the secretary

darrajem@bigpond.net.au

- 24.1-** Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary executive members can be -
 - (a) delivered in writing, accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination), to the secretary of the Association prior to the annual general meeting; and
 - (b) received from the floor of the general meeting.
- 24.2-** If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- 24.3-** If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.
- 24.4-** The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary executive members is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in accordance with rule 19.1(a).

- 10.0 Election of Members of the Hive Site Allocation Committee**
- 11.0 Election of STBA Local Area Networks**
- 12.0 Confirm STBA Apiary Site Coordinators**
- 13.0 Set Fees for Ordinary Membership 2024/2025**

14.0 Set Fee for individual Public Liability Insurance (previously \$20)

15.0 Special Resolutions: The following Special Resolutions will be proposed

Special Resolution 1 – That rule 36 of The Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Incorporated Constitution be deleted to align with the Associations Incorporation (Model Rules) Regulations 2017.

Rationale – Rule 18 of the Associations Incorporation Act (the Act) prescribes the method and process by which an association's rules may be changed. Deleting rule 36 of our constitution means that, for the purposes of changing salient features of our rules, we are bound to follow rule 18 of the Act which states that changes may be made by special resolution at either an AGM or a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

Special Resolution 2 – That the revised rules aligned with the Associations Incorporation (Model Rules) Regulations 2017, as presented to the Association by the Executive Committee, be adopted in place of the Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Incorporated Constitution (adopted May 2003).

Rationale – The current constitution is outdated and no longer fit for purpose. If this resolution fails but Special Resolution 1 is passed, at least we will not have to wait a full year before presenting a revised version.

Note that a Special Resolution requires the support of 75% of those present and eligible to vote, in order to be passed.



SOUTHERN TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

*Meeting held Monday, 28th August 2023, starting 6.30pm
Glenorchy Linc, Room 1*

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members: Ross Gordon (Chair), Peter Norris, Keith Wooldridge, Lori Lakos, Jeff and Rosie Lee, Daniel Sherrin, John Rockliffe, Peter Brown, Sam Brown, Mike Bazan, Ashby Newman, Robert Newton, Therese Kingston, Amanda Heinken, Kerry Churchill, Cathryn Maloney, Bryce Harrex, Roger Walker, Kathryn Kirk, Robert Eastmont, Sophia Luchko, Reon Olivier, Nathan Hurst, Gaspare Cavarretta, Fiona Burch, Kristen Hines, Jenni McLeod, Alistair Hayes, Andrea Fleming, Leissa Tollard-Darby, Dawn Hendrick, Simon Pigot, Gail Desmarchalier, Rosemary and Mark Hochman, Peter Ridler, Freya Stokell, Alfonso Cavarretta, Deb Bryant, Jenny Newton (minutes)

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES:

The President welcomed all to the AGM.

Apologies: Leigh Slater, Terry Thompson, Ashley & Yeng Dales, Neil Mickleborough,

2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM):

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were tabled.

Moved: *That the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2022 AGM.* Jeff Lee / Jenni McLeod. Carried unanimously.

2.1 Matters Arising: Financial corrections required (Kathryn Kirk)

Discussion re Zoom voting – not at AGM

3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING

A copy of the President's Annual Report is attached.

4.0 FINANCIAL REPORT & MATTERS ARISING

The Treasurer reported on the Financial Year 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023
See attached.

Moved: *That the Financial Report be received and adopted.* Roger Walker / Peter Ridler Carried unanimously.

5.0 SISTER HIVES REPORT & MATTERS ARISING

Jenni McLeod reported on the success of the Sister Hives program over the past year. A \$96,000 grant from the State Government was acquitted in June 2023 and approved in July 2023. Fifty five new members to the STBA have resulted. Two world records have been achieved. A film of this event was shown at the State Cinema recently. Two thousand copies of the “Little Book of Beekeeping” (Author- Jenni McLeod, Illustrator – Kristen Hynes) are to be published. It is up to the executive and membership of the STBA how these are used.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF PATRON

The Secretary reported that Hazel Hoskinson has given verbal confirmation of her willingness to continue being the patron of the STBA.

7.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2023/2024

The current President, Ross Gordon, vacated the Chair for the elections and Jeff Lee took the Chair.

- **President**

Ross Gordon was nominated by Keith Wooldridge and seconded by Jenni McLeod.
There were no other nominations, Ross Gordon was re-elected President.

- **Vice President**

Peter Norris was nominated by Keith Wooldridge and seconded by Bob Newton
There were no other nominations, Peter Norris was re-elected Vice President.

- **Secretary**

Roger Walker was nominated by Peter Ridler and seconded by Bob Newton.
There were no other nominations, Roger Walker was declared Secretary.

- **Treasurer**

Keith Wooldridge was nominated by Roger Walker and seconded by Cathryn Maloney.
There were no other nominations, Keith Wooldridge was re-elected Treasurer.

- **Public Officer**

To be decided at the first executive meeting.

- **Membership Officer**

Cathryn Maloney was nominated by Ross Gordon and seconded by Keith Wooldridge.
There were no other nominations. Cathryn Maloney was re-elected Membership Officer.

8.0 ELECTION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE for 2023/24

Five Committee Members are required in addition to the elected Officers. Nominations were as follows:

Peter Ridler: nominated by Lori Lakos, seconded by Roger Walker

Therese Kingston: nominated by Peter Ridler, seconded by Jenni McLeod

Bob Newton: nominated by Roger Walker, seconded by Keith Wooldridge

Jenni McLeod: nominated by Ross Gordon, seconded by Sophie Luchleo

Sam Brown: nominated by Ross Gordon, seconded by Jenni McLeod

Kathryn Kirk: nominated by Peter Norris, seconded by Bob Newton

Ashby Newman: nominated by Jenni McLeod, seconded by Daniel Sherrin

After a cast of votes, the following were declared members of the Executive Committee

Peter Ridler

Therese Kingston

Bob Newton

Jenni McLeod

Ashby Newman

Ross Gordon re-took the Chair from Jeff Lee.

Moved: *That the ballot papers be destroyed.* Peter Ridler/ Roger Walker. Carried unanimously.

9.0 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HIVE SITE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE for 2023/2024

Peter Norris reminded the meeting that the 2008 Terms of Reference state that this committee should be open to anyone by a show of hands and be transparent.

Peter Brown	Peter Norris	Ashby Newman	Ross Gordon
Kathryn Kirk	Bryce Harrex	Simon Pigot	

10.0 ELECTION OF STBA LOCAL AREA NETWORK COORDINATORS

Clarence	Jenni McLeod nominated Daniel Sherrin
Merton	Ashby Newman
Tasman Peninsula	Chris Wilkie
Derwent Valley	vacant
Southern Beaches	Jeff Lee
Kingston Blackmans Bay	Ashley Dales
Hobart	vacant

11.0 MEMBERSHIP FEES

Discussion included the legacy allocation of \$5 of the membership fee as a donation to AHBIC and whether this was being paid.

Moved: *That STBA's annual membership fees remain the same (\$40 for ordinary membership and \$25 for associate membership).* Peter Norris / Peter Ridler Carried unanimously

12.0 SPECIAL BUSINESS

(i) **AON Insurance** – \$20 million public liability and product (except cosmetics, pollen and other exclusions specified in the policy) insurance. An opt-in for recreational beekeepers up to 200 hives and less than \$100,000 in revenue. The STBA Executive suggested an annual fee of \$20 per member opting in. To be reviewed annually at the AGM.

Our present insurance with WFI covers STBA Activities including LANs and some shows but for every additional activity we need to add to the cover and pay an additional premium. Individual beekeepers are not covered. Questions arose over whether the AON insurance would cover liabilities arising from products sold under a business name when membership is in an individual's name. Ross to check with AON.

Lori Lakos suggested putting a letter into the Bee News.

Moved: *That the opt-in fee for AON Insurance for individual members public and product liability be set at \$20.* Peter Ridler / Roger Walker Carried unanimously

(ii) Governance Training

COI – Peter Ridler declared an interest in this item as Rural Business Tasmania (Linda Groombridge) is a tenant of his corporate entity Ozerentals Pty Ltd.

During preparation of the strategic plan, Linda Groombridge suggested governance training for all executive members of not-for-profits has become the norm.

Group training for up to 18 people will cost about \$4500.

Discussion included pursuing a government grant as governance is so important, but resistance to spending the money was noted.

Moved: *That the STBA pursues governance training and to find a government grant to do so within the next 4 weeks. If the STBA is unable to source grant finance in the stipulated timeframe, the group option at \$4,500 to be pursued.* Mark Hochman / Roger Walker 25 for /1 against /3 abstentions

(iii) Joining AHBIC

Currently, the STBA is not a member of AHBIC but we can do so at the cost of \$600 along with a copy of our constitution. Benefits include, for example, participating in Varroa surveillance without having to join other branches of the TBA to be insured. Each state gets 2 votes (1 voting, 1 not) to be on an equal footing.

Discussion included using the \$5 per member previously collected as a donation towards the joining fee.

Moved: *That the STBA joins AHBIC* Peter Ridler / Peter Norris 25 for /1 against /3 abstentions

(iv) Previous business meeting minutes, 31st July 2023

The Treasurer explained that the cost of his laptop provided by the STBA as well as the quarantined Sister Hives (before acquittal came through) needed to be deducted from the accounts presented at the meeting.

Moved: *That, subject to clarification by the Treasurer, the Minutes of the STBA General Meeting, 31st July 2023 be accepted as a true record.*
Kathryn Kirk / Therese Kingston Carried unanimously

(v) Life Members to be called for at an AGM according to our Constitution.

Ross Gordon called for nominations but none were forthcoming.

(vi) President's Report – matters arising

Peter Norris requested that an email be sent to Biosecurity Tasmania requesting more detailed reports of the occurrence of diseases and to time the reports for Spring so that beekeepers don't get alarmed and feel compelled to open their hives in winter.

(vii) Thank you to outgoing secretary, Jenny Newton, on behalf of the STBA from Jenni McLeod.

Meeting closed 9pm

28th August 2023 STBA AGM Presidents Report

At our last AGM – I was elected President and Peter Norris Vice President. Jenny Newton and Keith Woolridge were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively with Keith taking on the additional role of Public Officer. Both continued their sterling work, bringing a professionalism to their portfolios which I fear we sometimes took for granted. Cathryn Maloney, likewise, took ownership of the Membership Officer role and was responsible for getting all of our communication to you in a timely manner. The remainder of the executive consisted Jenni McLeod, Bob Newton, Ashby Newman, Alan Baker and Anita Long, with Anita resigning her position in May. The executive worked very well together this year with often very lengthy agendas being tackled efficiently and, for the most part, harmoniously. I thank all of the committee members for their dedication. For those who don't know – Jenny Newton will not be standing for re-election, and I know you will join me in thanking her for her service and wishing her well for the future.

Our Bee News newsletter had something of a tortuous year with both myself and Lori Lakos attempting to get it right until Dawn Hendrick took on the role of Editor during our Christmas hiatus and rapidly turned the newsletter into something we can be proud of. The newsletter is now a major part of our outreach program and an essential means of communicating with our membership. Thank you, Dawn.

Rosemary Hochman assumed the role of Show Coordinator and quickly stamped her authority on it. She has since expanded the role to head the new Events Committee with Bob and Jenny Newton, Tess Kingston and Keith Woolridge. This committee also forms a major part of our outreach program and goes from strength to strength. Thank you, Rosemary and your new team.

This year saw the lifting of the last of the COVID restrictions and a return to near-normal or, perhaps, the new normal in terms of crowd management. For most of us it is back to business as usual, but we should spare a thought for those whose habits and behaviour have been altered indefinitely and we, as an association have so far failed to address the need to reach them effectively with our extension delivery. It is something we have worked on at executive level, but are yet to implement.

Our Beekeeping courses, ably led by Peter Norris and assisted by Keith Woolridge and Bob Newton, continue to deliver a quality education and introduce newcomers to our craft. Thank you, Peter and your assistant tutors.

The Sister hives project culminated during the year with the final milestone currently underway being the publication of 'The Little Book of Beekeeping' by Jenni McLeod. I was struck by the holistic educational approach that Jenni and Anita applied to the tutorials which led to genuinely empowered participants, many of whom have put their hands up in executive or volunteer roles and contribute in meaningful ways to the STBA. It is encouraging to see new initiatives in this space and I hope the formula can be applied to other STBA endeavours.

The bulk of new initiatives on the agenda for the executive this year related to improving our governance. We began this exercise with a member survey then set about creating a strategic plan. We also drafted a grievance policy and code of conduct. The final stage of this drafting process will be a revised constitution. Taken together, in a broad sense, the object of the exercise is

to future-proof the association. This is no easy task but we have made good progress, including on the constitution which work is being undertaken by Roger Walker and Peter Ridler. The next stage will be a consultative process. The bar is set very high for changes to the constitution as 75% approval at an AGM is required to adopt changes, hence the importance of consultation. I am confident that we will have a revised constitution ready to go by the next AGM if we stick with the process.

The procurement of a suitable piece of land for a headquarters is now at least on the agenda with a committee of volunteers including Peter Norris, Bob Newton, Roger Walker and Peter Ridler looking into it. Hopefully this will yield results soon.

The 2022/23 honey season is one a lot of beekeepers will have been glad to see the end of. Those seeking leatherwood or manuka would mostly have been disappointed but prickly box yielded well in some areas and we witnessed a mass flowering event of stringy bark in the more mountainous areas, leading to an okay honey yield and many hives being exceptionally well provisioned for winter. It was the worst season I have encountered for queen rearing or, more specifically, for queen mating. Like many commercials, I was unable to requeen many of my hives and chose to leave any that looked as though they were still performing. Having now checked most of my colonies, I have been pleasantly surprised by how many of my colonies are queen right, many having superseded, which once again goes to show how adaptable and clever bees are.

The queen incubator hosted by Heritage Honey continues to deliver ripe queen cells to those in need. This has been a hugely successful initiative, albeit a bit underutilized this year due to it being such a poor queen rearing season.

We had to contend with two new biosecurity threats this year – detections of small hive beetle in the Devonport area and the ongoing and growing threat of varroa on the mainland. This serves as a reminder of the timeliness of the new biosecurity code as well as the need to support our biosecurity officers, even if, at times, they come across as incompetent.

The increase in reported cases of AFB in our jurisdiction is a cause for concern. Hopefully this is as a result of better monitoring, detection and reporting and doesn't represent an alarming increase in prevalence but diligence will be required if we are to stop this becoming a major problem as recreational beekeeping, in particular, continues to see exponential growth. Chalkbrood is still our major disease issue although EFB seems quite prevalent as well this year, usually at very low levels of infection but, given how well provisioned the bees were going into winter, it suggests there is still much to learn about both of these diseases and something the next executive could consider research funding for. Wasps, for the most part, only became problematic very late in the season resulting in very few colony losses.

The omens are looking good for rain forest areas in particular going into Spring, so, like all eternally optimistic beekeepers, I know the coming honey season will be a cracker.

I would like to once again thank my executive for a year of great service to the STBA and wish those who leave the executive for whatever reason, all the best for the future.

Thank you also to all who made presentations at our non-business meetings and thanks again to all the volunteers who make the STBA tick.

Ross Gordon STBA President

Southern Tasmanian BeeKeepers Association Inc

Accounts for Financial Year: 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023

Southern Tasmanian BeeKeepers Association Inc			
Accounts for Financial Year: 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023			
Bank as at 1st May 2022			
SBA Bus Trans Account	\$20,382.69		
SBA Cheque Account	\$52.36		
SBA Term Deposit #1 xxxx 6189	\$39,315.82		
SBA Term Deposit #2 xxxx 8253	\$43,766.96		
	<u>\$103,517.83</u>		
Bank as at 30th April 2023			
SBA Bus Trans Account	\$16,057.17		
SBA Cheque Account	\$52.36		
SBA Term Deposit #1 xxxx 6189	\$54,434.00		
SBA Term Deposit #2 xxxx 8253	\$49,898.51		
	<u>\$120,442.04</u>		
Income	2022-23	Expenses	2022-23
Bee News Advertising	\$225.00	Bank Fees - Stripe	\$19.68
Commission Received	\$7,355.12	Bee News Expenses	\$350.15
Donations	\$80.00	Field Day - Raffle & BBQ/Refreshment Expenses	\$717.29

Field Day - Auction			\$325.00		Field Day - Venue Hire			\$415.00
Field Day - BBQ & Refreshments			\$425.41		Field Day - Expenses			\$171.00
Queen Cell Sales			\$930.00		Flora Manual Expenses			\$300.00
Show Display			\$2,362.26		Gifts & Gratuities			\$834.89
Income STBA					Insurances			\$2,992.70
Apiary Site Fees			\$15.00		Meeting Room Hire			\$811.50
STBA Beekeeping Course Fees			\$1,370.00		Overheads & Administration			\$364.19
STBA Member Subscriptions			\$11,261.75		Show Display Expenses			\$3,487.68
			Total Income:	\$24,349.54	STBA Legal Fees			\$220.00
Other Income					STBA Annual Dinner Expenses			\$384.00
Interest on Term Deposits			\$249.73		STBA Education			\$314.60
			Total Other Income	\$249.73	STBA Honey Competition			\$910.95
					STBA Software Expenses			\$611.28
Surplus (Income - Expenses)				\$10,674.48	STBA Website Expenses			\$757.79
			Closing Balance (Bus Trans Account)	\$16,057.17	Suspense			\$12.36
							Total Expenses:	\$13,675.06

Term Deposit Activity									
SBA Term Deposit #1 xxxx 6189									
Opening Balance	01/05/2022	\$39,315.82	Matures						
Interest Paid	Sep-22	<u>\$118.18</u>	09/23						
Closing Balance	30/4/2023	<u>\$39,434.00</u>	3.00%						
SBA Term Deposit #2 xxxx 8253									
Opening Balance	01/05/2022	\$43,766.96	Matures						
Interest Paid	Jun-22	\$131.55	12/23						
Xfer from Bus A/C	15/09/2022	\$15,000.00	2.25%						
Closing Balance	30/04/2023	<u>\$58,898.51</u>							
Total Interest (all A/C's)		\$249.73							