

ABECS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the JUNE, 2020 Newsletter

Gee, how much has the world changed in the six months since I wrote the December newsletter? I'll write very little about COVID-19 (there's nothing I can add to what you've already heard and read) other than the fact that Daniel and I tried to contact all members during March/April to find out how everyone was travelling. The majority of members were suffering with the exception of one or two who had become involved with supply of hand sanitizer. We were relieved to hear that everyone expected to get through this crisis.

AGM

It was with regret and disappointment that the Board made the decision to cancel this year's annual Gold Coast function. However, the **2021** version is already booked (again for the Gold Coast) for the weekend **Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd August, 2021**.

As we are a co-operative registered with Fair Trading NSW, we are obliged to hold a General Meeting every year. This year it will be held in Sydney (in the afternoon) following the Board Meeting on **Thursday 8th October**. As always, all members are welcome to attend but, on this occasion, there will be no festivities to go with it. [More information to come.]

MEMBERSHIP

ABECS, at the end of this financial year, will continue at 49 members. Two members, Australian Blue Mountains Water and Mount Warning Spring Water will leave us; however, their departures will be offset by the very welcome addition of Plastics Partners (Alan Wilkes) and Herbs of Life (Daniel Bucca).

In consideration of the current economic problems being faced by the national community and particularly ABECS members, the Board has decided that **the 2020/21 annual subscriptions will be waived**.

WEBSITE

The minutes of the March Board meeting have been approved and posted on the website.

ABECS BOARD

As advised above, this year's AGM will be held in early October, rather than the usual time of August. Four of our six Directors will retire, as required by our rules. At this time, I don't know if they will offer themselves for re-election, but it will be an opportunity for any member to seek nomination for election to the Board. [More information will be provided closer to the time.]

We utilised the services of Zoom for our March Board meeting – there were 4 attendees in person and 5 joined in via Zoom. Our June meeting was 100% Zoom.

Given that we live in virus ridden Victoria, I'm not sure whether Glenn Stephens and I will be able to attend the Board meeting and AGM in October. The services of Zoom may again be required. This facility will be available for all members who may wish to partake in the AGM but cannot travel.

SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

In the December newsletter I advised that, Angus Wilson (Big Springs Water), had commenced production of PET HOD bottles which are available for purchase by other members. We now have a formal supply agreement in place.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The Board discussed the freight/courier opportunity at the June meeting. Further information will be provided.