

ABECS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the DECEMBER 2020 Newsletter

What an amazing year! It's one I'm sure we would all like to see never repeated. During the last 100 years we've experienced a Spanish flu pandemic, two world wars, a major depression and lesser financial fluctuations and we're still here. I cannot help but be somewhat optimistic about things to come.

For those members who are still not sure, the Directors determined that the annual subscription for 2020/21 is to be **WAIVED**.

AGM

Just to reiterate, next year's annual Gold Coast function, including AGM, will be held over the weekend **Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd August 2021**. Based on discussions with several members we know that many are looking forward to it. Despite the disappointment of not having our yearly get together, the positive corollary is that our budgeted expenditure is substantially lower than it would otherwise have been. This is significant considering the Board's decision to waive 2020/21 annual subscriptions. Our group is in a healthy financial position but reducing our income by about \$50k in one year would normally have been difficult.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership currently stands at 51. In the second half of this calendar year we gained 2 more members and we welcome ABC Filling (Michael Ward) and Ningaloo 90 (Warren Burgess).

WEBSITE

The minutes of the October 2020 Board meeting have been approved and are now posted on the website.

ABECS BOARD

The result of the election held at our AGM saw the four retiring Directors returned. Patrick Moss was unsuccessful in his endeavour to gain a seat at the Board but his attempt was appreciated and it's reassuring to know that we have members who are prepared to devote time and effort to guiding our group forward.

We have utilised the services of Zoom for our March, June and October Board meetings and the AGM. Whilst the Directors would prefer to meet in person, Zoom meetings reduce the need to travel and the associated costs.

CHAIRMAN

The group's Chairman is elected by the Directors at the first board meeting following the AGM and holds the position for the following 12-month period.

At the December meeting, Matthew Shelley decided it was time for a change and relinquished the Chair.

Subsequently, Chris Murray was elected to take the position. The Board and the Management Team thanked Matthew for his wonderful service since taking the role in December 2014. Matthew attended the November 2008 Board Meeting as an observer and, on the retirement of Arthur (his father), he was appointed as a Director to fill the casual vacancy.

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.

We have agreed to an extension of our PET preform supply agreement with Visy. The terms are much the same as the previous agreement.

RULES

The Management Team is utilising the services of Sam Byrne (The Co-op Federation) to revise and update the group's rules. Apart from some amendments along the way they are now 40 years old and do not totally adhere to the new National Co-op Law. The new rules will be presented at the 2021 AGM for ratification by members.

We wish all members and families a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable and SAFE New Year.