

ABECS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the JUNE 2022 Newsletter

Six months ago, I said that we'd had a crazy year; a number of things have changed since then, but the craziness continues. As COVID seemingly eases we are running into inflation and continuing increases in costs/prices. I cannot help but think that we'll all go through a 'rough patch' for another year or two. There are too many global concerns to allow Australia to simply and easily work its way out of this situation.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I and many others are looking forward to meeting again, in August, after a three-year gap. It's only weeks away, rather than months, and pretty well everything is in place for a successful Annual Conference and AGM. This year we will have three speakers, following morning tea, and I'm sure you'll find them interesting. For a change, we'll have our Saturday night dinner at Kurrawa Surf Club, just a short walk down Victoria Avenue towards the beach. Because of various restrictions, Daniel and I have had limited opportunity to travel and it will be a treat to catch up with a number of members we haven't seen for quite a while. Several suppliers will be in attendance and this function provides you with a terrific opportunity to mix with them in a relaxed environment.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership remains at 50. During the last six-month period we gained two more members – HYM Investments, trading as Supreme Beverages, and Mayfields Soft Drinks and we welcome Milin Patel and Peter Golland, respectively. Three members departed – Monde Nissin, ABC Filling and Liquid Investments, who regrettably only stayed the one year before they opted for a new direction.

WEBSITE

The [minutes of the March 2022 Board meeting](#) were approved by the Directors at the June meeting and have been posted on the website.

SUPPLY AGREEMENTS/ARRANGEMENTS

Our supply agreement with **Sopura** (for supply of cleaning chemicals) was finalised in January. We have continued our good relationship with **Plasdene** and another supply agreement is now in place. Similarly, new agreements with Opal, Big Springs and AMEC have been established.

It's unfortunate, if not regrettable, that increased costs have forced some of our suppliers to impose interim surcharges/levies, which will be reviewed quarterly. We will post new price lists, including these surcharges, to the website.

UTILISATION OF CO-OP FUNDS

At the March Board Meeting, the question was raised as to whether we could better utilise the funds in our interest earning account and term deposits. A resultant suggestion was put that such funds be made available to members as short term, low interest loans for specific capital projects. This will require further investigation but, at this stage, it is a topic that will be included in the AGM agenda for discussion by members. Basically, is this something that the group should do?

BCCM FLOOD RELIEF DONATION

During the year the co-op donated \$10k towards flood relief through the Australian Mutuals Foundation Flood AMF is a registered charity whose primary purpose is to enable mutual banks and other co-operative organisations to assist needy children in Australia and alleviate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region. It focuses on supporting community disaster recovery efforts within Australia.

Funds generated were distributed to local co-operatives and community organisations for arranging recovery activities.

We wish all members and families a successful New Financial Year.