

OUR OBJECTIVES

For the hydroponic and greenhouse industries:

1. Representation at a national level to Government, technical agencies and other industry groups.
2. Support local groups and be a focus for national interaction.
3. Collect, produce and disseminate information to members.
4. Promote the inherent efficiency and sustainability of our systems and the subsequent product advantages.
5. Encourage and support relevant research and development activities.
6. Undertake any activities that may foster the development of rational, co-ordinated and sustained protected cropping industries in Australia.

A brief history:

The forerunner of the Australian Hydroponic & Greenhouse Association (AHGA), the Australian Hydroponic Association (AHA), was formed in August 1990 following two successful South Pacific Hydroponic Conferences held at Surfers Paradise. Since then, biennial industry conferences and trade exhibitions have been held in Melbourne (1993), Sydney (1995), Coolum (1997), Adelaide (1999) Central Coast of NSW (2001), Melbourne (2003, and Bundaberg (2005). Today, the AHGA is recognised as the industry's peak national body representing its members to government, technical agencies, and other industry groups.

In addition to producing a newsletter to distribute information on current issues and events, the Association has helped fund important research and development projects including: slow sand filtration for disinfecting recycled nutrient solution; the development of management practices for western flower thrips; a national industry survey; Environmental Impact Study of bumble bees on Tasmania's flora and fauna; and helped fund applications to APVMA, formerly NRA, for usage of specialist treatment products in greenhouses. Other Association initiatives include support of accurate branding of hydroponic produce, and organising grower workshops facilitated by national and international

BENEFITS OF AHGA MEMBERSHIP

Conferences- Biennial national conference. This includes regional farm visits. Members of the AHGA receive significantly reduced registration rates.

Newsletter- The Association's newsletter, *Soilless Australia*, provides members with information on current technical issues, coming events, industry issues, and news from regional Associations. Opportunities for a regular column are also freely offered to State-based groups to promote local issues.

Industry Representation- The Association represents the industry's view to Government and other bodies such as Horticulture Australia on relevant hydroponic and greenhouse issues

Research & Development- The Association identifies industry problems, negotiates and funds research projects and publicises the results of the research.

Publications- The Association publishes and distributes information useful to hydroponic and greenhouse producers. Proceedings of past conferences and specialist publications are available from the Association's Administrator.

Recent activities:

- 2005 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Bundaberg, Qld.
- 2003 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Melbourne, Vic.
- 2001 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Mingara, NSW.
- 1999 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Adelaide, SA.
- 1977 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Coolum, Qld.
- 1995 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Sydney, NSW.
- 1993 Biennial Conference and Exhibition, Melbourne, Vic.
- Helped co-ordinate and fund applications to NRA (now APVMA) for use of specialist pesticides/fungicides in greenhouses.
- Pathways to Production - a hydroponic skilling initiative.
- Supported accurate branding of hydroponic produce.
- Western Australia Greenhouse Growers Association recently affiliated.
- Bumblebee R&D and import application.
- Created new AHGA logo.
- Developed interactive website.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1. Full Name of Applicant
2. Trading or Company Name
3. Postal Address.....Post Code.....
4. Farm or Residential Address Post Code.....
5. Telephone: Work Home
- E-mail.....Fax.....
6. Please indicate whether you are:
 - commercial hydroponic producer
 - commercial greenhouse producer
 - support person (research, extension, consultant, educator etc.)
 - allied industry
 - hydroponic product retailer / wholesaler / manufacturer
 - other (please specify).....
7. Are you already a member of any regional protected cropping associations? (eg HFF, TAGG, WAGGA, etc)
8. What crop(s) do you grow?.....
9. What type of hydroponic system do you operate?.....
10. What is the size (plant number / area) of your hydroponic operation?
11. How long have you been involved in hydroponics?.....
12. On obtaining membership of the AUSTRALIAN HYDROPONIC & GREENHOUSE ASSOCIATION I agree to uphold the objectives of the Association.

...../...../.....
 Signature Name - BLOCK LETTERS Date

...../.....
 Card Type (Visa, MasterCard, Bankcard) Card Number Expiry Date

Please complete the credit card information above or, alternatively, attach your cheque or money order (made payable to the "Australian Hydroponic & Greenhouse Association"), for AU\$55.⁰⁰ (incl GST). Please return to the address overleaf. A Tax Invoice receipt will be issued and returned with your AHGA membership number.