

## Southern Tablelands Branch

In July, our branch meeting was held at Goulburn RSL Club. Harold Saxvik travelled from Darlington Point as our guest speaker. Harold gave our members a detailed insight of newly planted almond groves and how many hives he estimates to be required for the future. Therese and I shared our USA Aussie Bee Tour experiences. This included a presentation of many USA and Canadian beekeeping operations. In addition, I also explained about seeds we planted on our farm. The benefits for our own queen rearing operation and sheep fodder with a few photos– veitch, clover, and wild radish with our 17 members whom attended.

Ecrotek Beekeeping Supplies sponsored our branch Christmas Get Together / BBQ luncheon, the last weekend of November. Will Armstrong was our guest speaker, Will talked about Ecrotek Beekeeping Supplies new products they are planning to introduce into Australia. 31 beekeepers thoroughly enjoyed the social get together. Some beekeepers were unable to attend but due to the fires on the South Coast. They were frantically moving bees out of the fire path.

The aftermath from the devastating fires occurred on the South Coast NSW has burnt majority of forests between Nowra and Eden. Beekeepers are now struggling with limited resources and apiary sites burnt to the crisp. With no natural resources, the need to use supplementary protein feed & Sugar Syrup is a necessity.

Late February our branch hosted a supplement feeding mini field day and included supporting fellow beekeepers with information on: grant opportunities & mental health support from Elizabeth Frost (Technical Specialist Honey Bees – DPI). A variety of supplementary feeding techniques explained by Dr Doug Somerville (Chair of Agrifutures/ Honey Bee and Pollination Program) and fellow beekeepers experiences.

Our branch appreciates the support from businesses have travelled today especially to give you an insight of their supplementary feeding products from Australian Honey Bee, Brown Bees Australia Pty Ltd, Ecrotek Beekeepers Supplies, Hornsby Beekeepers Supplies and Nuplas Apiarist Supplies. Jane Jones Area Manager WFI is also available if you require insurance advice.

Dr Juliana Rangel-Associate Professor of Apiculture. Department of Entomology and Interdisciplinary Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Texas A& M University gave a very detailed presentation on the USA Effects of agrochemical exposure during development on the reproductive health of honey bee, queens and drones. Many thanks for our sponsors Australian Honeybee – morning Tea. WFI – Sausages for the BBQ and Beechworth Honey BBQ Lunch. Bee cookies home baked by Tara Saxton, were a favourite.

A special thanks to Neil Bingley for keeping our branch up to date on executive matters. Therese Kershaw sharing AHBIC updates

Our branch appreciates the NSWAA executive time and support to our industry, especially for organising drought & fire relief support for our members i.e. Fees waived for bee sites in Public Lands, Forestry and National Parks. Also, the RMS waived costs for primary production registration on heavy vehicles.

To help our branch keep buzzing, many thanks to Judy Saxvik, James Kershaw and Therese Kershaw for your time and ongoing support with your executive roles. Very grateful for Judy Saxvik's time and support as our branch Secretary, ensuring correspondence is passed onto members. Judy's very creative touch organising our branch guest speaker gifts, is very much appreciated. Last but not least, I also appreciate our member's ongoing support throughout the year.

Laurie Kershaw