

Tamworth Branch Report

Membership.

The Branch has met regularly over the past year with membership steady. .
The current executive is as follows

President	Ray Hull	Po Box 36 Kootingal 2350	0407469176
Vice President	Nigel Lawson	Sunny Side Quirindi 2343	0428462365
Treasurer	Raelene Mitchie	robraem@westnet.com.au	67671066
Committee	Rob Mitchie	robraem@westnet.com.au	67671066
Committee	Justin Wall	Justin_wall@icloud.com.au	0437960393
Secretary	Norm Maher	normmaher@hotmail.com	0447603245

The Tamworth Branch was formed in 1957 and is one of the oldest in the Association. The branch is financially sound. .

Publicity

Media Release featuring President Ray has appeared in various Regional Media, regarding Bees and the drought and later the bees and bushfires.

Branch Activity

Planning was well underway for a Branch 2020 Field Day following the Tamworth Conference, Unfortunately this has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Branch took up an offer to attend the Tamworth show and spent "Children's Day" running non stop presentations to school students and providing some very tasty samples. The display was further enhanced by live bees in an observation hive.

The following day branch members were kept busy answering all manner of questions from the public and we even saw, children bringing their parents to the bee stand they had visited the previous day.

One notable visitor was Governor General, former NSW Governor and beekeeper David Hurley. Enough honey was sold to enable the Branch to make a \$500.00 donation to the Annual Conference guest speaker's fund. Branch President Ray Hull offered this wash up summary, "It was a great opportunity to engage with school students their teachers and the public as to what happening in the industry, how great our product is and to get their support"

Many Branch members attend the screening of "The Pollinators" in Tamworth.
A great snapshot of the Pollination industry in the US.

The Branch would like to acknowledge the support, effort and leadership shown by the Association President and the Executive thru out a very difficult year of extreme events. Support to members on the ground has been outstanding. Thanks Guys

Ray Hull
President
Tamworth Branch

Norm Maher
Secretary
Tamworth Branch

Northern Tablelands Branch of NSW Apiarist Association

Presidents Report 2020

This year has been a trying year for beekeepers. The prolonged drought saw many beekeepers move hives long distances to small pockets of budded timber where some rain fell. Hives held bee numbers, but only limited crops of honey were available.

Fires in Northern NSW were very destructive for apiaries with some timber being totally destroyed. This resulted in a lot of beekeepers moving hives into areas they normally wouldn't work, causing an oversupply of bees and less benefits to all concerned.

New England Blackbutt produced some honey and was going well until the fires ended that flow. Rough bark apple put good brood into boxes. Queen rearing and nuc making was taken full advantage of, while conditions were good.

Throughout the year, our branch only had three meetings. We were fortunate to have our local member and State Agriculture Minister, Adam Marshall, attend a meeting and answer all questions that were put to him. Adam's attendance proved to be very informative and a beneficial outcome for our meeting. We were grateful he was able to allocate time in his busy schedule to visit us. Rod Bourke attended a meeting and educated us on the Bio-security Code of Practice and our obligations under the code.

Our branch initiative of gifting honey to rural merchandising outlets throughout the Northern Tablelands area (12 in total), has been well received. Farmers have been appreciative and have personally commented that by helping each other, and looking after each other, we will get through these challenging times together, and come out the other side bigger and better.

On behalf of the Northern Tablelands Branch, I would like to commend the State Executive for their commitment and tireless effort in the work they have completed to benefit all members of our association.

Once again, thank you to my executive, Glenn and Janine McConnel and Steve Webber, for your dedication and commitment – a great team effort.

Wishing all beekeepers a safe and productive honey year ahead.

Richard Willis
President Northern Tablelands

2019-2020 Riverina NSWAA Report

The 2019/2020 season for Riverina beekeepers has become as disappointing as previous years with drought biting hard still.

Our biggest problem however stemmed from beekeepers from other areas best described as dumping thousands of hives on a limited resource with no care for biosecurity and impact to others or the general public.

I saw for myself thousands of hives within 1 – 2kms of each other and dangerously close to roads and people, together with beekeepers leaving bees flying at service stations and other public places endangering the public.

We also had the annual disgrace of sub-standard bees on Almonds again!

All these things bring our industry into disrepute.

With the drought as the start our next disaster was bush fires that not only took out thousands of hives, burnt or smoke effected, which is horrific, the longer term problem being a severe loss of resource that because of the intensity of the fires will take many years to regrow – if indeed they can as I have seen a lot of country that I believe won't regenerate.

With drought and fire and overstocking honey production in the Riverina was well below average. Price of honey was just starting to reach respectable dollars for effort when a packer started importing honey again, this time saying because of market pressure and for the good of the producers. All I can say is – what a load of #%&*!

No company has ever imported product for the good of the Australian producer especially when they blend imported and local product together.

But here is a fact – if you pay the best price you get the most product. Funny how honey went up in supermarkets before prices went up to producers!!

The Riverina branch had four meetings again this year. We had two meeting in Griffith as an alternative to Wagga and has proved very popular hence the branch is now alternating between both. We have been fortunate to have had some great guest speakers and lively discussions at the meetings.

The branch was also fortunate to gain funding to conduct three pest and disease/ bee biosecurity courses at Tocal Yanco campus in the past year. Unfortunately, the last course has not gone ahead due to the coronavirus. We would like to thank Rod Bourke and the Tocal team for working hard in helping our branch to secure these courses.

The branch would like to wish Dr Doug Somerville all the best in his retirement from his role at NSW DPI. Doug was always very popular at meetings with his topical discussions and insight into industry matters, and whilst he may have retired, we hope he will stay in touch and come to the odd meeting.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who has attended our meetings, more people give more views. Also special thanks to Secretary/Treasurer John Smith for handling his job well.

Yours in Bees

David Mumford
President
Riverina Branch NSWAA



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Committee: Bruce White, Michael Fogarty, Ted Pennay,, Fiona Stroak, Tanya Ananin

Report of activities February 2019 to 2020

Sydney Metropolitan has had an active year our members have attended the Royal Agricultural Show; as judges, with the Beezeebo and working at Honeyland.

Socially we met for Christmas in July at the Carrington Hotel in the Blue mountains. Twenty members had a super time which started with the railway journey through the scenic mountainside. We held our Christmas dinner on the Nepean Belle which is a paddle steamer on the Nepean river. Everyone enjoyed the lazy journey on the river, with many seeing the various wildlife.

We had several presentations during meetings, they were David Hancock, Taronga Zoo Threatened Species Officer gave a talk on the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

Shaun Garvey on meeting beekeepers in China and colonies hived in logs and on trees. Simon Turner shared his experiences working with beekeepers in Uganda.

At Marilyn Grant's request the branch managed a stall at North Ryde Community Twilight Markets for our members to sell honey and honey products. These were held once a month in October, November and December 2019.

We had a very successful meeting tasting honey with honeys from Australia and Europe were showcased.

Covid19 has obviously slowed everything down for us. We have ceased all face to face activity and are trying to stay connected via regular emails.

The executive committee has worked well together, and we are committed to work in our roles until the next AGM when hopefully we will be over the current world health pandemic.

With regards
Miskell Hampton
President

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



NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

NORTH COAST BRANCH

Our industry, like many others, has had to weather one of the worst droughts on record, an unprecedented bushfire season, followed by a minor flooding event. In these difficult times, the North Coast Branch was able to hold four meetings in Broadwater and Grafton, and continued to see strong attendances at meetings, with some members travelling substantial distances.

A highlight was the November 2019 meeting in Grafton, which attracted more than 75 attendees, where aspects of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice were presented by Rod Bourke and Steve Green. Members also attended a beekeeping equipment day at Bangalow in July 2019 and a pollination expo at Woolgoolga in March 2020.

Our branch was in attendance at the 2019 Primex Field Days in Casino, promoting the value of beekeeping to the general public, in conjunction with the Northern Rivers Amateur Beekeeping Association. The ongoing efforts of Geoff Manning in the organisation and setup at Primex are acknowledged and much appreciated.

The efforts of Barry Watts in his role as branch president prior to the last AGM are recognised by the current executive and membership. Thank you also to Shirley Maloney for continuing to provide refreshments at the conclusion of branch meetings.

Peter Stace moved away from our region recently. Peter's substantial contribution to the beekeeping industry was recognised at one of the branch meetings and we wish Peter all the best for the future.

The branch would like to acknowledge equipment and service providers for their ongoing support including Valley Industries, Pender Beekeeping Supplies, Hunter Valley Apiaries, Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies, Lockwood Beekeeping Supplies, Steritech and Ecrotek.

Finally, with the difficult environmental conditions that we have all endured this past season and so much uncertainty for the future as we begin to deal with the consequences of Coronavirus, a big thank you must go out to all of the branch members. A club is only as strong as its members and the continued attendances at meetings provides for an indication of the strength of the North Coast Branch. Continue to help out each other wherever you can in the year ahead and keep a check on the well-being of your fellow beekeepers. Stay safe, ask for help if you need it and remember that the good times will return.

Regards,

Steve Fuller.

President, NSWAA North Coast Branch.

The Central Tableland Branch report

Our branch holds four meetings a year and an annual dinner for members and guests.

Our branch had its AGM in July and our office bearers are

President - Mal Porter

Secretary- Debbie Porter

Treasurer- Robert Porter

After last year's conference in Bathurst our branch held a field day on the Saturday, which was well attended, with many stalls for the keen beekeeper to look at and buy some bee material. There were also some stalls for the ladies. We had the local Lions Club come and do the catering, which was well attended as well.

The spring was pretty ordinary here in the Central Tablelands with the lack of rain. Yellow box trees were budded well, but little honey produced due to the lack of rain before flowering and very little pollen.

In early January the Central Tableland had damaging bushfires, which burnt out perspectives for honey and pollen for later in Autumn which could lead into the feeding of bees with sugar syrup. With the influx of weeds from January rains and no nectar, the bees have started to breed so feeding of sugar syrup will be a must.

Later in January we received good rain little late for honey, but the weeds started to grow to give us good breeding conditions. Very few trees putting bud on for the upcoming season, so it looks like another tough season coming.

The branch had some of its members going to the Sydney Show to help out on Honeyland, until the show was cancelled, the same for our Bathurst show. We held our annual dinner in March, which was well attended.

Some of our members are now getting their bees ready for the annual almond pollination at the end of July, so till then it will be shed work.

Malcolm Porter
Branch President