

HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Highlights presented by E J Wakefield

On the 17 June 1969, H Ayton, Secretary of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA), sent a letter to seventy odd beekeepers in Launceston and surrounding areas. The letter read as follows:

Dear Sir

As a beekeeper in the Launceston district, you were probably a member of the Launceston Beekeepers' Society. If so, you will realise that the Society has ceased to function. Because of the great interest in bee keeping and the need for some organisation, it is proposed to form in Launceston a branch of the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association. There are already branches in Hobart and Burnie.

A meeting to found the Branch will be held in the public meeting room at the Launceston Museum at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 26th June.

You are very cordially invited to attend, and as the evening will conclude with supper perhaps, you could bring along a "plate".

Yours sincerely

*H Ayton
SECRETARY
T.B.A.*

P.S. Have sent these notices to 70 odd beekeepers in Launceston and surrounding areas.

Also, D Cunningham said to remind you to get the key for the room and also check for sugar, tea and milk.

Regards Harold

This meeting was duly held and was attended by Mr Jan Oosting, President of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA), Harold Ayton, Secretary of the TBA and approximately twenty-four local beekeepers.

The minutes of the meeting are record below.

Proposal to form a branch of the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association. Meeting opened by Mr Jan Oosting, President of the TBA. Motion by Norm Hoyle that a Northern Branch of the TBA be formed, seconded by D Breadmore. Explanation of the aims of the proposed Branch by D Cunningham carried.

Election of Officers

<i>President</i>	<i>Mr Breadmore</i>	<i>nominated by N Hoyle (elected)</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Mr Bourke</i>	<i>nominated by N Hoyle</i> “
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mr Hoyle</i>	<i>nominated by D Breadmore</i> “
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr Wakefield</i>	<i>nominated by B Costello</i> “

Two committee members

<i>Mr Kilvert</i>	<i>nominated by L Bourke</i>
<i>Mrs Taylor</i>	<i>nominated by D Breadmore</i>

The new president took the Chair.

Subscriptions moved by J Dornauf, second by B Costello, that the annual subscription be \$2.00. Carried

Delegate to the Annual Conference of TBA, moved by Mrs Taylor, seconded by B Costello, that the President attends the Conference as the Delegate of the Northern Branch. Carried

Moved by J Dornauf, that \$3.00 affiliation fee be paid to the TBA. Seconded by L Bourke. Carried

It was decided that the Annual Meeting of the Branch would take place in August. Moved by B Costello, seconded by J Dornauf, that the next meeting be held in the Lecture Room of the QVM on July 31st at 8pm.

Mr Don Cunningham gave a talk on some aspects of bee keeping.

A vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Thanks were also given to Mr J Oosting and Mr H Ayton for their attendance at the meeting.

Signed D Breadmore Date 31/7/69

Thus the Northern Branch of the Tasmanian Beekeeper's Association was formed the aims being the betterment of beekeeping in the North through the sharing and distribution of information.

July 1969 - the second meeting was again held at the same place, The QVM, Lecture Room. The President gave a report on the TBA Conference held at Ulverstone on 19th July 1969. Mr Don Cunningham gave a talk and showed films on Queen Rearing. It was also moved by motion, that a saucer be provided a supper, for donation, this to be used for tea sugar and milk which is still being carried out at meetings, I hope.

August 1969 - this meeting was held at the Teachers College, Charles Street Launceston. Mr Breadmore gave a report on the Southern Branch dinner and a swarm collection service was established in Launceston area (this service is still going). At this meeting it was decided to have a stand at the Launceston Show. Our Apiary Inspector Mr D Cunningham made the arrangements. A roster was drawn up for members to man the stall. We sold plenty of honey too. Mr Colbolt, from the Department of Agriculture, gave a talk on bee diseases. Mr Jan Oosting gave a talk on Queen Rearing. Both talks were well received. The only thing that marred this meeting was that some person or persons unknown, added soap powder to the sugar.

September 1969 - the meeting had two visitors, Mr Bob Stephens and Herb Bullock. Mr Stephens spoke on the Equalisation Scheme. President D Breadmore gave a report on the Launceston Show and it was decided that K Willis and E J Wakefield operate the live bee section, which was built of clear $\frac{1}{4}$ in perspex sheets. With a hive inside which was taken apart every hour on the hour.

January 1970 - our first field day was held at Mrs Taylor's apiary Longford. Honey was removed from a hive and extracted on site.

June 1970 - the first AGM was held on the 25th June. The office holders were all re-elected. Mr Jan Oosting gave a talk on the advancement of the Branch and the stable financial position it was in.

October 1971 - we held another stand at the Launceston Show. The bees were once again displayed in the perspex cage, bees supplied by L Bourke.

May 1972 - Mr Cunningham reported that some Black bees from Tarraleah sent to the UK had arrived in good condition.

June 1972 - saw another AGM, Mr Cunningham took the Chair for the election of officers. Those members, elected at the foundation meeting, moved on except Mr Hoyle became the President. Mr Wadley became the Secretary, Mr Richards was treasurer. Mr Franks from Sulphur Creek made foundation wax for beekeepers. The price for milling the foundation wax was 25c per pound. Freight had to be added so the price of 30c a pound was considered OK.

November 1972 – the Branch hosted a state Field Day at Mrs Taylor's property at Longford.

October 1973 - it was decided to purchase a honey extractor from Mr Loney for the sum of \$25 and a steam knife from Mr Shepherd for \$5. This equipment was hired out to Branch members for a small sum.

February 1974 - we had a barbecue at Strathmore a property of Mr and Mrs Taylor's at Nile. Two people travelled up from Hobart but according to the report it was badly attended.

March 74 – it was reported that members of the Branch had destroyed a large number of European Wasps. We ordered a pallet of honey jars it had to come from Melbourne. The firm sent them by air and it cost \$127.15 for freight. We were not to pleased with this when they should have been sent by boat.

May 1974 - it was suggested that we have a site map showing our apiary sites. These sites were for clover and bush honey sites. Wasn't long before the map was red with dots showing sites.

June 1974 – the Branch Field day was held at Mrs Taylor's place again. A letter of appreciation was sent to Don Cunningham to thank him for his work in procuring Toya Road, for sites for Leatherwood for the Branch of which we had to let go a few years later as the road condition was very bad. We had six sites with approximately 120 capacity.

July 1974 – AGM was held the officers elected were N Hoyle, President, A Wadley, Secretary, B Jordan Treasurer the subscription be left at \$3.00 and that student membership \$1.25. We held our first honey competition. A 10lb tin of honey was given to the Auditor.

August 1974 – it was suggested that we don't attend the Launceston Show but a deputation to go and talk to Mr Patterson about the 1975 show.

October 1974 - it was decided to hire out the honey extractor and knife. The equipment was hired out for a price of \$2.00, (for the knife the extractor and boiler) for a period of three days. For non-members the cost was \$6.00. Applicants to provide a week notice for a period of three days. The materials were held at EJ Wakefield place. In the same year a 5lb tin of leatherwood honey was exported to England for the cost of \$46

Each Christmas for a number of years we were invited to represent the Branch at a cocktail party which was put on by Federation Insurance Ltd, which today is Wesfarmers Insurance.

We had a picnic at Poatina instead of a Field Day in 1978. This event was very well attended.

April 1978 - our first gadget meeting was held. We still have one now and again there is always something new.

February 1979 - was our final meeting at 233A Charles Street. We were there from August 1969 to 1979.

March 1979 - our first meeting at the Adult Education Centre

June 1982 - the Branch hosted the State Conference held at the Riverside Pub.

November 1982 - we had a Field Day at Tresca was enjoyed by all even the weather was kind to us.

April 1983 - it was decided to have a dinner at the Bohemian Restaurant at Dilston at a cost of \$16.50 per head. The dinner was held June 4th, it was a very enjoyable night.

November 1983 - a Field Day was held in Liffey Valley.

There was a display put on at the State Library by Rex Johnson manned by members of the Branch, displaying boxes and other bee materials. It was a very good display and well received by the public.

EFB was found in the Channel area in 1984.

June 1984 - it was decided to place a ban on smoking during meetings. At first this was not very pleasing for some members.

July 1985 m - our AGM saw the election of our first lady President Mrs Noeline Donald. We decided to disband the social committee. It was decided to have our annual dinner in June 1986.

October 1986 - we held a display at the Launceston Show, the cost was \$200 for the stand. 10% of sales was paid to the Branch. TBA Incorporated paid \$100 towards the expense of show stand, which was a great help.

November 86 - we changed our meeting to 7.30 because of daylight saving.

April 1987 - it was suggested we give a list of our names of people willing to attend motor vehicle accidents involving transported bees to Police and Rescue Services

June 1988 – the TBA Conference was again held at the Riverside Pub in Launceston. A good time was had by all

Aug 1988 – the Field Day was again held at Tresca. Great fun with frame nailing and other competitions

Sept 1988 – Branch dinner was held at Tamar Court Exeter about twenty members attended.

November 1988 - it was moved that when you book for dinner that a deposit be paid. It was decided that two members attend Exeter Show. The Branch considered attending Agfest but decided it was too dear.

March 1989 – the Field Day was again at Tresca. It was another good day with beekeeping materials displayed by Garth Wells and other members of the Branch.

May 1989 – the Branch members again considered Agfest but it was decided to target smaller shows Longford Westbury etc.

July 1989 – the subs were set at \$6, wives \$6 and students \$1. We received a video about Varroa mite but unfortunately it was in German. The Branch organised a paper translation.

October 1989 – Branch member attended Longford Show and sold one 500gm bottle of honey

June 1990 – Mr E J Wakefield was awarded Life Membership.

March 1991 – we took part in Forestry Week setting up stalls in the Mall to display bee information and to sell honey. A very profitable venture.

June 1991 – it was suggested we hold a field day at Barry Murray's place for Christmas.

November 1991 – it was decided to have a mini Field Day at George Godman's place at Georgetown. It was mini only two people turned up.

December 1991 – the field day was held. Someone cheated in a bee catching competition by putting blowflies in a Queen cage.

The Branch would regularly donate items to the TBA Field Days. One item, Christmas pudding donated by Mr and Mrs Wakefield would bring in bids of anything up to \$50.

July 1992 – Mr George Godman was awarded Life Membership

November 1993 – was the last meeting at Adult Education. We moved to the Scout Hall, Talita Avenue, Summerdale. This was to be the meeting venue for the next 18 months. This was not a good meeting place for several reasons. However while we were there we had a good gathering at our meetings.

June 1994 – Mrs Mim Godman was awarded Life Membership.

March 1995 – we had our first meeting at the Launceston College

November 1995 – we had a very pleasant Field Day at Des and Mary Willmott's property at Osmaston. Lots of fun with bee stings and nailing competition with a very successful auction. We also held our monthly meeting but everyone was exhausted by the Field Day.

May 1996 – was our last meeting at the Launceston College

June 1996 – we had a very interesting AGM at the Aquarius Roman Baths. Due to the noise and steam levels we had only one meeting at this venue. The honey competition was restarted at this meeting.

July 1996 – we moved to the current venue at the Lutheran Church Hall cnr Frankland and Thomas Street. This has been a most suitable venue.

Beginning last year the Northern and NorthWest Branch have organised some combined dinners. These have been very successful events and well enjoyed by all attending.

HOPE TO FILL IN THE REST IN ANOTHER THIRTY YEARS