Tocal College the place to bee

Tocal College was a hive of activity last Saturday when it hosted the 37th annual Tocal Beekeepers’ Field Day, with a record breaking attendance of approximately 600 people from hobbyist to commercial bee keepers. The event is the longest running Beekeepers’ Field Day in Australia and now the largest in NSW. It is jointly coordinated by the Hunter branches of the NSW Amateur Beekeepers’ Association and NSW Apiarists’ Association with support from NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Principal of Tocal College, Mr Darren Bayley said it was great to see the growing interest in beekeeping across all ages.

“Bee biosecurity, monitoring for pests and diseases of honey bees, honey quality assurance, Certificate III in Beekeeping, basic beekeeping skills, the Flow™ Hive, and the newly released AgGuide on Australian Native Bees were standout presentations on the day delivered by industry experts,” Mr Bayley said.

There were plenty of practical demonstrations with hives opened, bee brood inspected for disease, queen bees spotted, honey extracted, and a native stingless bee hive split.”

Mr Bayley said another successful element of the Field Day was the Industry trade show encompassing many of NSW’s beekeeping equipment suppliers, there will be plenty of bee themed presents under Christmas trees this year.

The Tocal Beekeepers’ Field Day has been the pinnacle of Tocal College’s ‘2016 Year of the Bees’ and plans are unfolding for a super Beekeepers’ Field Day in October 2017.

To purchase a copy of the new Australian native bees AgGuide and the other bee AgGuides or to get up-to-date information on short courses, factsheets and other information for beekeepers from NSW DPI visit www.tocal.nsw.edu.au.

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