

Valley Bees Monthly Meeting and AGM

Minutes for 09 June 2019 – Meeting #100

Declared opened at 1-37 pm by Kayle in the absence of Chair Eric. Minutes by Glenbo. Asked if all had received Minutes, and it was moved that Minutes were a true and accurate record by Maree, 2nd Sara. AGM to be held at end.

Treasurer's Report by Jeanne

MRCCC balance \$2744-84 - Nothing added in the last month, so remains the same.

Bendigo balance \$2731-41 - Added \$52-50 - Deducted \$65 (payment for raffle and venue) = \$2718-91

Total \$5463-75

Moved by Jeanne to be accepted. 2nd Athol. Carried by all.

Kayle welcomed to Trevor and Marion Weatherhead as our invited guests. Welcomed new attendees Edward and Mariana.

Vic report on Landcare Saturday Session

Had our monthly Landcare last Saturday, good roll up of 20+ people. Nice mix, a number of new first timers, who want to hear everything. Started the morning with a discussion on what we need to look for this time of the year.

We have found 2 recent cases of AFB locally, so looking for diseases is vital. It has been showery weather all the time for 2 or 3 months, so couldn't look into the hives as much as we should have.

Some of our hives have had diseases, and noted there has been an upsurge of wax moth in some of the weaker hives.

Discussed what to look for in larvae, and in the colour/condition of cappings.

Because it's the start of winter, important to be aware that the temperature in the brood box needs to remain at 35 / 36 degrees, so important to pick the time to visit hives. Avoid rainy days, and in particular, cold winds.

Happy to find spotted gum in flower and yielding honey, so good honey coming in, maybe take honey next month.

No diseases showing, so good report.

Because of cold, the honey has been candying very easily.

Next month Vic will bring in a bucket of candied honey, and show how to render it down.

Good smoko, good chat.

Derek report on Native Bee morning

This morning we held our bi-monthly native bee workshop here at the Honeybee Farm, concentrating on solitary bee nests and clay moulds. We made a clay mix for Blue banded and ground dwelling solitaires. Experimented with Bentonite and sand, we noted the grain size of the sand and consistency, so we can observe effectiveness and duplicate if successful. Trouble is that making mixes it tends to be experimental, so need to work out a good formula.

18 people attended, we had Trevor Weatherhead give a talk on the new Native Bee Association set up recently. Trevor also spoke of some of the latest happenings in the native bee world.

Phil report on Honeybee Farm Saturday Session

Good turnout for our workshop day. Getting new people every time, particularly young kids. Overall the hives were strong, with a few beetle spotted. The only problem was in the number 5 (Flow Hive) where we couldn't find the Queen. We are looking at placing a new Queen in. We observed in number 7 the green marked Queen. All else good.

Scott report on the Top Bar hives

Scott's Langstroth are all fine and proper, good honey stores. The Top Bar hives are developing fairly well, but 2nd hive has decreasing numbers, supercedure Queen cells but no direct action yet. He'll keep observing them. Once again, possible Queen replacement. Scott has tried sugar syrup, with feeders inside the hive, checking to make sure syrup is taken up. In the weaker hive there is brand new drawn comb, so okay.

Phil - Discussion on feeding with syrup, sugar water. Noted that not supposed to feed any more than they can use immediately, only feed enough that the hive can use at that time, so the syrup is not stored in the honey super. So only in brood box. **Sara** - They need energy, but only feed if no honey in hive, and hardly any nectar coming in. The feed is to strengthen brood and bees, not stored.

Flowerings - Spotted Gum is flowering at the moment, but not a lot of nectar. Some places have huge pollen stores and almost no nectar. So pollen coming in masses, and bulk feeding the hive, but little nectar for honey.

Trevor Weatherhead - A percentage of 50/50 sugar/water maintains the brood in the hive, there will be less fighting at 30/70. If more sugar, encourages Queen to lay, if you want this then 60/40 or 70/30 give the best results.

Tom - Congratulations to the organisers of the Show this year, to Kayle and Gwendalyn, who did a great job under trying circumstances. Difficult this year with the new computerised system and new registering regime, many hours spent by Gwen to understand and master, so well done to all. One mistake only out of whole lot, no honey stolen as originally thought, just mislabelled. Congrats to Gympie Champion and Wide Bay Champion - Brian MacKenzie. Brian also picked up Champion Honey at the QBA Field day at Bribie Island, no mean feat against Warwick and Toowoomba with their lighter thicker box honey. Reg noted - can we change judges????!!!!??? Everybody got all entries back now. Thanks to all who participated. Hope to see next year and everyone enjoyed themselves. Good to have Adrian Jones down for the day on the Friday, he really enjoyed, he was in no hurry to go home!

QBA had their Annual Honeybee Conference and Field Day at Bribie Island last weekend. It turned out to be the biggest conference yet, and was very successful. Kayle gave a report on there event. 160 were booked in, 50 turned away. The dinner was huge on the Friday night, where the awards were presented, along with membership awards. The auction was held again, very very successful, with the money this year used for beekeepers in distress. Very good speakers, lots of information, lots of general info in an understandable form. Suitable for all to attend, so should consider going along. Something for everyone, not just the Commercial Beekeepers. Asked if there is any access to information from the conference, but not really. The information is generally just taken on by the attendees, and shared. QBA Conference next year will be in Warwick in June / July. Take woolies, 'cis last time by crikey it was cold!

Biosecurity

There are new laws coming in with bees, so keep an eye out on these.

Mark - Can we get a Top Bar hive here at Honeybee Farm. **Sara** - Lot of people interested in the Top Bar system. Best to set up from a swarm, or can use the cut-out method from the Langstroth frames. Fit into Langstroth, once built up cut and transplant into Top Bar. Maybe add a bit of drawn comb and fix to top bars to entice bees to draw the combs straight. Wired in frames caused chaos in hive. No motion considered just yet, Members to think about it.

Landcare - We were asked to shift the hives there so Landcare had more space for their special events on the flat area. But Vic explained exactly what was involved, and Landcare agreed it was too much hassle, and it's okay as is.

Native bee in large log at Kandanga Info Centre

Glenbo has been in touch with Jan in the Kandanga Centre, and all is still okay for timing. Howie indicated that he has access to a fellow with the truck and crane / lift system, along with Greg, to move the hive from Kandanga to the Honeybee Farm. The Info Centre is very happy with this. Glenbo will confirm with Jan and with Howie, and will arrange for a special plaque to be made to recognise the providence of the hive (very very important in this case). The log, though huge, is not a real solid heavy log and it was agreed that it could be managed as a whole log transfer.

Scott - Investigating **Bee Open Day** for this year, we had voted not to have it, then voted to have it. Pauline found out best was to not have it on the 14th September (other events on) but instead on 7th September. We will know next meeting, so decided to leave until July for further discussion. There is a comprehensive list made up by Glenbo, to get the ball rolling, but needs a team / organiser to be the main driver for this event. Sara and Glenbo will meet briefly to discuss a few clarifications, and Sara will pursue with getting the team happening. Sara and Howie have agreed to take on the Raffle, and Sara has agreed to assist in contacting and clarifying with the exhibitors.

Apologies

We forget to offer apologies at beginning of meeting: Pauline, Wayne, Eric, Dan and Marilyn, Skaidra, Merv, Michael.

Brian - Brought along a flyer from the QBA Field Day on the SHB external trap. Set up similar to a fruit fly trap, 20m to 100m downwind from the hive. Diana Leemon did a presentation at the Field Day, and provided some flyers.

Formula for External SHB trap:

Purchase an external trap (can be basic fly trap) from local hardware store.

Mix 1 cup water, 1 teaspoon yeast powder, 1 tablespoon sugar and 2 tablespoons hone (can be crappy honey).

Mix up before midday, hang downwind of hives - 20m to 100m away. Replace yeast mixture as needed.

Phil Bowman has a YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHUmK5SlzXU>

You can find more detailed info here:

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/18-062.pdf>

We also saw a red entrance trap, the Guardian Bee Hive Entrance Trap, worth Googling.

Erin offered some written questions:

AFB testing and bee health problems, if found the hive has to be destroyed, keeping an eye out is important. Suggested to her that every 6 to 8 weeks go through and check brood in all hives. Question from Erin was does the honey from an AFB hive need to be tested. Kayle said that the AFB is solely in the brood box and does not really effect the honey, and the AFB disease has no impact on humans.

Suggested that we as a group **make up small stands** to hold a super, to be free-standing next to the hives during sessions. Vic said that (Des Barkell??) would be thrilled to make 3 stands for the club, Vic to chase up and make.

Enquiry about **Blue Card**, and we confirmed that it can be applied for through the Club.

Close of General Business

Trevor Weatherhead gave a wonderful and informative talk. This has been recorded and will be transcribed in full and offered to the Members, as a lot of good info was spoken about. Keep an eye out for the document, it will definitely be available as a print out at the July meeting. It will also be uploaded on-line to our website.

Question: Do Valley Bees become a member on the newly formed Australian Native Bee Association, of which Trevor is a committee ember? To be discussed.

Raffle drawn, 5 great prizes, noted that our special invited guest Marion Weatherhead picked up the main raffle prize.

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AGM Annual General Meeting held at the end of the proceedings.

Minutes from 2018 AGM read out by Glenbo. Jeanne moved that Minutes be accepted, 2nd Vic. Carried

Chair

Suggested that maybe different people to Chair meeting each month and seeing that we keep to schedule, takes burden off just one person. Main duty to just chair meeting, 4 or 5 people to rotate throughout year.

However, consensus was that we have to have someone in the centre of the group to 'conduct' so agreed that we have a Chair, the meeting voted comprehensively to do this. Nominations for vacant position of Chair:

Mark nominated Brian MacKenzie, declined.

Sara nominated Kayle Fidlay, declined.

Jeanne nominated Howie Bizzell, declined.

Kayle nominated Sara Bizzell, declined.

It was suggested that Merv Jessen may be interested, but in his absence nothing discussed.

No Chair elected.

Landcare Session Coordinator

Vic Finney nominated by Lyn, Maree 2nd. Accepted. Applause.

Honeybee Farm Session Coordinator

Phil Browne nominated by Jeanne, Mark 2nd. Accepted. Applause.

Book-keeper

Maree Hannon nominated by Jeanne, Sara 2nd. Accepted. Applause.

Noted that Maree has no internet banking, so Jeanne stays on as Signatory for a while.

Noted that in the capacity of a Book-keeper, the statements and finances are to be handed to the Meeting Chair for them to read out and present.

Native Bee Coordinator

Derek Cooper nominated by Jeanne, Maree 2nd. Accepted. Applause. Will be run in conjunction with Robyn Bowman (as Solitary Bee Coordinator).

Noted that Native Bees be every 2nd month, and these would be alternated between Stingless Bees and Solitary Bees, with 3 Stingless Bee Sessions and 3 Solitary Bee Sessions to be held per year, all to be held at Honeybee Farm as the sole venue, this makes things clearer, and is better suited for the Club.

We can also run individual days and events and splits, the Members would be notified. Bill MacIntosh - special days with splits, or Reg Hatch etc. These will not be scheduled.

Minutes Coordinator / Team

Not organised at the AGM. To be run month by month for now.

Membership Coordinator

Not organised at the AGM.

Phil invited Tom for a verse:

Guilfoyles put out their catalogue and occasionally they had a piece of bee-verse in them. Tom remembers this, but it seems that those at Guilfoyles don't!

Heard the old saying that man's pride in his strength, but he hates to admit when that starts to diminish. So Tom gave us a poem about the dwindling sizes of the supers - Full Depth, to WSP (three quarter), to Ideal, to Half Depth - to match the beekeeper's dwindling energy levels.

Greg

Acknowledged the efforts of **Eric and Jeanne Jordan** who are leaving their positions of Chair and Treasurer. Their roles and efforts were discussed and acknowledged, thanks offered to them both, and best wishes. Generous applause. Congratulations offered and general applause to all new positions.

3-35pm meeting closed

Congratulations offered to the young Mariana in the front row, for making it all the way through the meeting, not easy for a young child at an AGM, so well done indeed!

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Amendment to AGM Minutes made by Derek and Glenbo on Saturday 22nd June 2019.

It was decided that we will be holding 3 Native Bee events per year, shared between the stingless bees and the Solitary Bees. These will be in November this year, and then February, July and November each year afterwards. These will be in conjunction with the Gympie Show (May) and the Open Day (September). We are open to more events coming from suggestions via the Members. Thank you.

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