

Meeting Valley Bees 14 February 2021

Meeting started 1.30pm. Pauline welcomed everyone including new members.

Apologies Erin, Mick and Dana, Kayle, Reg and Marj, Tom C

Minutes of previous meeting, paper copy not available.

Business from minutes - none today

Correspondence.

Erin sent message - Facebook webpage glitches re membership form, council requirements for running open day still the same.

Landcare participant sent Maree a text complaining about a bee sting and other operational issues. Maree responded at the time.

Treasurer's Report

Bendigo account 3236.00

MRCCC account 4072.99

Petty cash 100.00

Total 7408.99

Maree moved treasurer's report be accepted. Bruce seconded.

General business

Solitary bees - Robyn.

Tube with nest shown last month was a wasp, not a bee, sorry. Robyn had replies from Tobias Smith re our \$500 donation. Also white beech seeds available, oregano plants and abelmoschus seeds.

Landcare report - Vic.

32 attendees, half new. Maree sold copies of Craigs' book. Spoke about Feb jobs, being at the end of summer. Spoke about queens. Ideal and nuplas hives. Requeening 2 cranky hives. If someone gets stung, please tell one of the coordinators. Maree handled the single complaint really well.

Question: what should be in a nuc? Vic puts three frames capped brood and one frame of honey and pollen. So four frames. Makes sure there're spare queen cells.

Honey bee cottages - Mark.

Good attendance. Back to our six hives, after falling back to two. Five hives quite strong, one not building up as expected.

Flow hive - Mark. Town flow needs a new queen as the bees are angry.

Honeybee flow - No honey from the flow last time, just out of the ideal hive on top. Hopefully honey from flow next week.

Invoice for three ideals, box of foundation. \$475. Derek moved that invoice be paid, Vic seconded.

Question about reason for ideal 1/2 height boxes. Some people happy to work with lighter smaller hives; encourage bees to move beyond the flow. Use ideal box if the flow isn't great.

Native bees - Bill - Box making at Bill's place. Bill supplied materials for ten boxes. 7 boxes made by participants. Landcare boxes full, to be qsplitted in spring. Hive beetles thriving in mangoes on the ground. All bees that Bill is looking after are doing well. Should have some native bee boxes to raffle or auction.

Top Bar Hives - Scott away today

Shakiya runs website. We now have credit card which we need to pay for hosting the website. 10,000-15,000 people visit our website every month. Shakiya is going to update the look and simplify the website.

Questions from Deb who is just starting. If now, buy a full hive up to \$550 as it too late in season for a nuc. How does one start?

Step 1. Come to honeybee farm next week, third Saturday.

Step 2. Landcare session first Saturday of month.

Step3. Make yourself known, and that you want to be a beekeeper. Network with other bee keepers.

Step 4. Get some gear eg veil.

Question. How do you start a flow hive? Get a nuc as bottom box and let it build up. Don't add flow until next spring. Eg have a full ideal, then add flow hive on top. Get hive stand as per book, up 400mm to keep toads away.

How many hives do you need? One hive if it's a flow. Langstroth hives, have about three to make it worthwhile getting all the gear.

Bill showed the box he made, for the raffle.

Mark. Bee positive donated a \$50 lid for a Langstroth hive. Mark will organise a lucky number 'raffle'.

Raffle. Meeting ended 2.30pm.