**Valley Bees July Meeting**

Honey Bee Farm Stay, July 12, 2020

# Meeting opened 1-30pm, chaired by Erin, Sara Minutes

Welcome all and reminder to sign on with Honeybee Farm Stay as well as VB. Welcome to new people.

# Apologies

Apologies received from Glenbo, Athol and Skaidra, Max Lindegger, Mel Marx.

**Minutes** from March Meeting available on web site:

Declared that Minutes true and correct, moved passed by Erin, Bill 2nd, Carried .

# Business arising from previous meeting

Meeting venue change: At the March meeting there was discussion of changing the venue for our meetings. The two locations mentioned were:

1. Landcare, which charges $50. The same as Farm Stay.
2. Museum School, which would be free.

Bill moved that we move to the Museum because of convenience and long drive for most of members. 2nd by Howard. Discussion of pros and cons. Concerns regarding air conditioning. Maree mentioned that all books etc are here as well as the Honey Shed and that many people buy Apithor, books etc at the meetings…it would be difficult to transport those items every meeting to a new location.

Erin called for vote: 5 for; 10 against: Motion not passed and our meetings will remain at Honeybee Farm Stay.

**Hive ownership: We now own all hives at HBFS and at Landcare.**

What is consequence of stings? Insurance covers us and that is why we have sign-on sheets for all events. First Aid is available and the epi-pen on each site. Responsibility of the land owner to notify public of risk of bees on site. Public liability should cover injury if proper notification is given. Put sign out whenever we are working with live bees. MRCCC trusts that we will do the right thing as our insurance is covered through them. We rely on their insurance because we are not incorporated.

Council has the right to move-on nuisance livestock which includes bees.

**Bush fire donation:** A motion was made last meeting and carried over for discussion to this meeting, that $1,000 be given to Queensland Beekeeping Assoc. for bush fire/ drought appeal and $500 to be given toward research on native bee as we would like to support both honey and native beekeeping. Due to Covid19 it is difficult to see what is happening in regard to the native bee research. The $500 donation to be carried over for further discussion. If anyone has a recommendation for the $500 please bring forward.

Erin clarified the motion from Feb and March minutes. Kayle said that we can’t give the donation to QBA for bush fire aid and we must give donations directly to Hive Aid.

Members discussed and Robyn made a motion to rescind previous motions regarding donations and send $1,000 directly to Hive Aid. Mark 2nd. Passed by members.

**Correspondence:**

IN: Sonya Lisle will be coming to Landcare August workshop.

Ross Huntington regarding council Pavilion hire and terms & conditions.

OUT: Landcare, to say that VB will not be available to assist in their workshops. Louis & Paul Taylor regarding moving a hive.

Jenny Stephensen regarding Native bee purchase.

Erin moved correspondence be accepted. Vic 2nd Passed by members.

**Chairman’s report:**

An Executive Meeting was held since our last meeting.

Changes to Open Day and AGM was discussed because of Covid19 restrictions.

Limit to workshop numbers due to Covid19 restrictions. Landcare workshops were well attended.

Erin discussed Open Day and restrictions per Covid19, will bring up in General Business.

Good to see you all again. Hopefully we will be having meetings on going from now.

Thank you all for attending.

**REPORTS**

# Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report available on line.

MRCCC: $4,829.28

Bendigo Bank: $3,327.00

**GRAND TOTAL: $8,256.28**

Sara moved the treasurer’s report be accepted, Rich 2nd , Passed by members.

# Landcare Workshop Session – Vic

# Held last Sat. limited to 20 people, and that’s what they had. More than half were first timers and had good interest in beekeeping and were a nice group to have. Organized to split in two groups and have one group at the hives and one group in shed. Everyone spaced out and when they had something to see on the frames, they would step up separately. Discussed recent history of beekeeping and thought we were off to a more normal season. Blue Gum in flower…more pollen than nectar. Just starting to flower. Wait and see how season goes. Fortunately, he hasn’t had to feed his hives but he knows lots of people have been feeding.

# All hives at Landcare are healthy. Have been feeding Flow hive. Some flowering around Landcare. Went out by Old Maryborough Road. Had a bee swarm under signage. He had a look around, couldn’t find them and with further instruction on another day, found them under the sign. They had formed 5 small combs under sign and down about 6 inches. Put in nuc box with frame of honey and took them to Landcare…tied combs into frames and when checking later found shredded string at bottom of hive and the bees had fixed comb in place. Going well and didn’t have to feed them. This hive will come to Honeybee Farm stay. Mark and Vic have been maintaining hives during Covid restrictions.

# Honeybee Farm Stay Session and Flow Hives – Mark

# Just maintaining hives during the last few months. Lost 2 hives. The triple had chalk brood and no queen. #2 hive had no queen so lost as well.

A little bit of honey in the flow hives at the moment.

Made two hives from the double that was there. Starting to go strong. We still have 3 strong hives and the one coming from Landcare will make 4. So we will build up here again

Mark noted that a Hive at his place had two queens. He took one queen away and put in a nuc and is going well. Very interesting situation.

# Native Bee Workshop- 2nd Sunday – Bill:

# Derek reported that it was held this morning with a great group and good discussion. (Thanks to Derek for organizing). Derek has handed the role of Head of the Native Bee Workshop to Bill. Congratulations to Bill in his new roll. Thank Derek for the time he spent. The 2 hives that they got from the water meter on Noosa Road have died. One swarmed and did not recovered. The other one went 15 weeks but with no queen it also died out. He has set a date for special workshop of July 29th 9:00am when they will be retrieving another hive from the same meter box on Noosa Road then go to Landcare. One hive to split at Landcare as well as bringing the hive from Noosa Road. Numbers for that day will be kept to our members or ones with special interest in the native bees. (See contact details below).

# The November workshop on the 2nd Sunday will be on making boxes here at Honeybee Farm Stay. He has timber to make about 8 single boxes. It’s good to start with that.

# Bill also noted that he bought soap at Aldi: Milk & Honey and Aloe & Chamomile. He believes that using this soap prior to working with bees may stop bee stings. Vic also trying this…Experiment ongoing.

**Solitary Bee Report**: **Robyn**

Sometime in the next few weeks she will have an open garden at her house. Invites our group to attend. Interesting things flowering. See or contact her if you want to attend. You can take cuttings. Hypoestes (Australian native) purple flowering bush. Grow from seeds, runners and cuttings. Dombeya - Big leaf plant with a flower ball, pink. Seems to be very attractive to honey bees. Salvias are also flowering if anyone wants cuttings. Someone at her woodworking club is making bee hotels out of marine ply…thinner than normal…looks OK.

**Erin:** Does nectar from native plant differ from non native? Vic: Pollen may have different qualities but nectar is mostly same. All nectar will have different moisture content.

**Vic:** Noted that at Nambour he saw a native bee hive in African tulip tree. Very interesting as they usually do not choose the African Tulip unless they are desperate.

# Top Bar Hives – Scott is not in attendance, so no report was given.

**General business**

# Bill: Has had positive results by hanging a flystrip by the native bee hive to catch florid fly. Native bees will not go to the strip but work well for the florid fly. He showed the strip covered with flies and said we can purchase them from Wayne’s World in Gympie.

# Erin: Will we move the AGM to a further date or shall we continue in the same rolls? Because we are not incorporated, we are not required to have AGM yearly.

# Kayle motioned that we do not have a formal AGM this year and that the current possessions remain as is until next year June when we will have our AGM. Greg 2nd: Carried by members. Only change is Derek stepping down as Native Bee workshops head and Bill will take over, with Robyn as assistant.

# Erin (and Glenbo) will make the change to the website re suspension of AGM and Native Bee workshop leader change.

# Erin: Restrictions and compliance orders regarding the Open Day due to Covid19 were sent out to members. It was decided by the Executive Committee not hold the Open Day this year because of the Covid19 Restrictions. It was decided that it would be too hard for our club to comply.

# 4th September 2021 will be booked for our next Open Day.

# MRCCC is holding our Gympie Regional Council dollars and Bendigo Bank will hold $1,900 until 4 weeks before event. So all is well with our grant funding for the event in 2021.

# Covid19 limitations on numbers for workshops was discussed and was decided that we will not have to do bookings anymore as numbers are below guidelines and we will continue as usual with the workshops.

# Sara read note from Max Lindegger at Crystal Waters: “The Bees are mostly OK but for the first time in 44 years of keeping bees, I had to feed them. Some Ironbark and the Blue Gum are flowering here but not sure how much they are delivering. There is no honey in the hives to take. Still having SHB – they don’t seem to disappear during winter anymore. We had 10 mm of rain here and it is looking quite promising for a Clover flow in a few months’ time.”

# Vic: Is finding Small Hive Beetle showing up in the middle honey box of a triple. Hiding in the cells of the middle honey box. Very interesting and be aware of this situation.

# Erin: Wants to put Flow hive on top of a strong bottom box. Will she put the hybrid Flow hive in the middle of a strong bottom box and full honey super? This situation was discussed. She is concerned that it might make the hive go backwards. Doesn’t want the bees in the current hive to go away and feels that they need more space at the moment. She may wait till late July or August to make a change to the hive.

# Kayle: QBA Wide Bay Branch meeting was held yesterday. Queen bee breeders have had trouble with posting queen bees through Australia Post. Taking too long to get to destination. Three queen bee breeders are stepping back in our local area. Queens may get very expensive. He uses queen cells instead of caged queens for his hives.

# Drama with Victoria border closure and commercial beekeepers. Only can use 2 bridges this year. Means more travelling for beekeepers to keep bees going to Victoria. Bees in Victoria aren’t going too bad.

# Discussed feeding bees and where bees are being moved. Mostly moving hives to NSW back onto canola. He has two yards at Wagga. Put down there one month ago and hasn’t looked at them since. They look to be pretty good quality and hopefully will hang on till they go to avocados.

# Kayle talked about his stolen hives. Haven’t got them back. Not a commercial beekeeper that took them. Not real strong hives. He was feeding them so they may die out if they don’t feed them. Lost 10 doubles and 10 emlocks. Not covered by insurance. You must now must go on line to report stolen hives. Talked about the media coverage.

# Not much honey out there now, here or in NSW. Prospects up here don’t look too good. Maybe start firing up in the next couple months. Talked about importing honey and the percentage reported may be high as most imports are being sent here to be packed and then sent back to the original country to be sold there. Capilano have 3 suppliers from China, heavily tested when it arrives for purity. (Not sold under Capilano brand.)

# Manuka Honey - Sara brought up discussion about Manuka Honey. Australia vs New Zealand. Some of NZ Manuka honey is actually coming from Australia. Ongoing dispute over Trademark etc.

# No raffle for today.

# Meeting closed 3:19pm

**COMMITTEE**

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