**Valley Bees February Meeting**

Honey Bee Farm Stay, October 4, 2020

# Meeting opened 1-33pm, chaired by Erin, Sara Minutes

Welcome all and reminder to sign on with Honeybee Farm Stay as well as VB. Great to see that we are getting more people. Remember our Covid Safe rules hand sanitizing social distancing etc. We now have a new sign in sheet and we will have the correctly printed out one for next meeting.

Welcome to any new people.

# Apologies

Apologies received from Glenbo, Athol and Skaidra, Reg and Marg, Tom.

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

Declared that Minutes true and correct, Maree moved Pauline 2nd, Carried .

# Business arising from previous meeting

Contact for Shakya the web site designer. Minutes will be sent on to her directly from now on.

Landcare Junior meeting will be 15th October. Intro to bees. 2 hour workshop. 3:30pm. Reanne will be there for supervising of children…so no blue card will be required.

Gympie Show date. Waiting for date from the Show Society.

Can’t move to September because of circuit.

We should still be good for our Bee Open date.

Robyn is not here today so will give update on solitary bees in later meeting.

Discussion regarding the decline of meeting numbers.

**Correspondence**

Outgoing: Ross Huntington regarding dates for Bee Open Day.

 MRCCC regarding Covid Safe rules and checklist.

Incoming: Response to email regarding meeting numbers.

 Frank Vaughan wanting a hive.

 Inquiries about workshop dates.

Inquiries about removing bees from house. (John will be willing to look at doing that. Erin will pass on any names to John in the future.)

Derek moved correspondence be accepted. Howie 2nd. Passed by members.

**Chairman’s report**

Covid rules: We can meet with up to 500 people in outdoor activities.

Workshops: Basic Covid rules to be observed and we must nominate Covid Safety Coordinator to make sure all rules are observed.

We are required to have a Covid Safe Operation Plan. Erin will write it up: Sign onsite, compliant sheet, sign-on sheet, sanitizer available, intro must remind social distance etc…

Sign-on sheets need to be kept for reporting to Health Deptartment when necessary. Maree will keep them.

Workshops may be divided into smaller groups, use sanitizer between groups.

Equipment must be wiped down between uses at workshops.

Should not be sharing of equipment…veils etc.

We will buy veils and have them available for attendees to purchase on day. Or make sure veils are washed between workshops.

Discussion as to whether we should have a new regulation for workshops that attendees must bring their own veils (will need a hat) or we will have them for sale. (wording will be forthcoming for our website and Landcare website.

Vic requested that Maree be the Covid Coordinator and Maree agreed to take on the roll.

Erin will make Maree aware of the regulations.

Pauline moved that we buy at least 20 veils for the workshops, Vic 2nd. Passed.

Erin found interesting information online when searching “How you learn about beekeeping”.

[www.sustainablefarms.com.au](http://www.sustainablefarms.com.au)

from ANU. Was interesting and Erin got the brochure for the group.

**REPORTS**

# Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report available online.

MRCCC: $ 4,829.28

Bendigo Bank: $2,988.30

**GRAND TOTAL: $7,827.58**

 5 new couples and 3 singles members

(Treasures Report attached to Minutes)

Maree moved the Treasurer’s Report be accepted, Bruce 2nd. Passed by members.

# Landcare Workshop Session – Vic

Held yesterday. 30 people attended. Good group, had a good morning. Discussion about Springtime and what bees do. Naturally expand to use that time to create nucs. Started 3 nucs on the day. Talked about the different ways to get a new queen. Took the 3 nucs out to Chatsworth and put queen cells in today.

A lot of interest in nucs from public and would be a good little business for someone to start up. Capped queen cells are available at $7.

All hives are healthy. Slow to moderate honey coming in.

Mark got a loan of a demonstration display-model of bee growth from egg to full bees. Very good educational tool.

Discussion of development of hives after swarms and building nucs etc.

Mark will ask the “BeePositive” man what the display-model cost and the group may consider purchasing one for VB.

**Landcare Flow Hive:** **Mark:**  The hive is pretty strong. Released them to go up to the top box and will see how they go.

# Honeybee Farm Stay Session and Flow Hives – Mark

# Vic brought a nuc over last month and it’s looking pretty strong.

# Flow Hive here is going strong may put an ideal on top and see how it goes.

# Took small amount of honey.

# Made a nuc out of hive 4.

# Hive 5 is starting to build up.

# All hives seem to be building up good. Should have 5 hives here soon.

# Native Bee Workshop – Bill

# Went out to Dereks and looked at 3 hives that they had from water meters. Two are good and one has died off. Derek checked this morning and the aggressive one has no florid fly but the mild ones have florid fly in traps. So seems the aggressive ones keep fly away. Trying different things in trap to see what works better.

# Split the fancy one at Landcare last month and they are both full and no fly. Was really surprised at how full and healthy the hives are. All looking good for the future.

# Looked at the one at log at Landcare and they were full and covered in bees.

# The next workshop on the 8th of November will be held at Bills place. He has 4 hives to split. This is the morning before next meeting. 9:00am.

# He has nice box for Valley Bees to sell at our Bee Open Day. It must be split before Christmas to get strong for the Open Day.

# Bill will hold a box building workshop the morning before our February 13th meeting. He has material and will accept a donation if attendees want to give something for the materials.

# Discussed the new lid design from Bee Positive. Heat shield paint.

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

**General business**

# Discussed break-up party at end of year. How and where will we have it?

# A vote on where to have the break-up party was taken and all voted to have it here at the Honey Bee Farmstay. Club will provide meat and salads etc. and attendees will bring deserts. Held after meeting in December. Maree will check with Honeybee farm to make sure all is good with them. (Checked and good to go).

# Erin: Nu-plus is doing a promotion for Breast Cancer. They are making pink boxes and they will donate $5 from every box bought to Breast Cancer research.

# Lively discussion regarding what’s happening with everyone’s bees. Swarms, splits, lost hives, etc.

# Erin talked about her experiment with a double brood box she put together to see how it would work. When she checked lately it was really strong and had room for brood in bottom box…beautiful and no hive beetle. She split it into two hives and hopefully will build up both.

# Vic discussed Warre boxes. Interesting to see how it works and he has a mate who wants to introduce some bees into his Warre boxes to investigate how the bees will go in this set up.

# Derek: Read an article regarding Probiotics and how they work with keeping bees. The author was trying to solve colony collapse cycle with his bees. Bio-minerals? Identify cause of CCD environmental toxins…solution...probiotics spray. Bees went from high pitched to lower pitched hum and settled down and went back to work after the spray. Since that time (4 years ago) he has not had any collapse in his hives.

# [www.slideridge.com](http://www.slideridge.com)

# has the full article. Ken Hamilton of Bio Mineral Technologies.

# [www.ecofarmingdaily.com](http://www.ecofarmingdaily.com)

# From the Booklet “News Leaf” (Spring 2020) Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd.

# [www.biodynamics.net.au](http://www.biodynamics.net.au)

# John asked what the group thought about plastic foundation. Discussion regarding how they work. May warp, you must coat with wax. Pauline hasn’t had good luck with them.

# Raffle draw for today. Bruce had the winning ticket.

# Meeting closed 3:16pm