

Valley Bees Monthly Meeting Minutes for 08 December 2019 - #106

Opened at 1-30 by Erin, who Chaired the meeting. Glenbo taking Minutes.

Apologies received from Kayle, Tom, Skaidra, Peter V, Jeanne and Eric, Kaye, Robyn.

Minutes recorded as accurate. Moved by Erin, Scott 2nd.

Scott on the Top Bar hives he is building:

Wood is together, things are glued, should be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Talked about the Landcare Education Program next year.

Outward: Kayle needs support for sponsorship for the Show.

Report on the Native Bee Conference

Erin will have prepared for next month (January).

In the meantime, here are a few things discussed, from conference attendees Erin and Glenbo:

Some talk of having the honey super at the base of the hive, instead of the top, appears to be better for an observation hive, and great for splitting. more on this later.

Also, talk of a vertical split of the standard hives, by turning the hive sideways, performing the split, then correcting back to original orientation.

Study on male drones and their flight patterns.

In one case in the study, it was recorded that 2 brother drones were recorded at least 42kms away from the hive, possibly on an extended mating flight???

Did think only 2 to 3kms that the drones travelled.

Does female have only one mating, or more, still uncertain.

Does queens remove the drones appendage after mating? Or does she keep it in, to prevent other drones from successfully mating with her.

Native bees prefer to go onto a flower when honeybee have already been on the flower. Interesting...

A lot of talk on the naming of native bee honey, a challenging area, due to the water content of native bee honey being much higher than the allowable maximum for water %, in the food act.

Talk also of creating Native Bee Standards, similar to Honey Bee Standards, these are an obvious necessity, given the advancements in the Native Bee Industry.

Talk of pasturising NB honey to overcome high water content as possibility of fermentation and spoilage.

Or reducing the water content artificially.

Much more was discussed, but hopefully this will come out in the report and in the newsletter from the event.

Treasurers Report presented.

Moved by Maree, 2nd Reg. See back page.

Report Vic - Landcare monthly session

Yesterday the session was held. In one word: Hot! Ouch!

Bill MacIntosh brought along an extractor, and a gazebo! Good thinking Bill.

Because so hot, no initial chat at the beginning, so we were earlier at the bees.

Landcare has 2 triple, 3 double including Flow Hive. All good.

Triples, looked to extract a few frames for the newcomers.

Brood health check, good, SHB check, also good.

An email came through from Max Lindegger that a lot of SHB around, but not a problem at Landcare, or in the region.

Swarm cell check, health check, good round tops on brood, healthy brood, no queen cells.

Swarms generally occur more when a good season, which it is currently not!

Established habit of quietly removing honey supers, going straight to brood super, then check honey supers while re-assembling. Less reaction from hive.

Good dribble of honey coming in, but no capped honey cells, only found 2 frames, spun these out.

New uncapping tool has been declared, we will get a photo maybe for the next meeting, or bring one in, seems they work really well. Set so just comes along under caps, frame leaning over, less messy. Around \$20, and you can uncap cold. Members are interested in seeing.

Finished the session early, every happy to head home.

Brush Box, Sugary gum flowering.

Report Phil - Honeybee Farm monthly session.

Held 16 Nov, good turnout, a few new people.

Vic talked on feeding of the bees, and water

Did a demonstration of feeding the bees.

1 to 1 sugar to water mix.

500ml in a sandwich bag, tiny prick holes, place on top of frames in the hive.

Had a look last week, all the sugar feed was gone.

#1 very good brood, no SHB, plenty of eggs.

#2 still a problem with the Queen, put another frame eggs from #1, 3rd or 4th time we've done this.

Today Mark looked at hive, still no Queen.

#3 had a few SHB, brood very good, Queen spotted (no, not spotted, just seen).

Flow hive good.

#5 hive also very good.

Display hive out the back, need to look at very soon, maybe at the next workshop.

No capped honey at all, just a bit of uncapped honey.

Native Bees

Nothing to report with native bees regarding the organised sessions.

Dan and Marilyn

have returned, good to see them back, they were up in Kimberly. They noted that every tree seemed full of flower, the shrubs, the ground cover, all full full full. But no bees seen at all.

They have missed their wet season for 2 years, maybe trees not producing because of this. All the way down the west coast, it was consistent: very dry, full flowers, but no bees.

They pulled into a bush camp, as soon as they started setting up camp, the bees appeared, trying to get up into water outlet. Next minute they were practically breathing bees, they were so, so thirsty.

Found a hive in fork of tree half km away, found only 3 or 4 hives on the trip.

Thousands of salt water lakes: do bees get anything from salt water?

Top Bar Report Scott

No SHB in Top Bars, but Langstroth hives have. Made a cone on suction, small enough to not suck a bee. 30 to 50 beetles per hive. They hide in the top, get disturbed and run when we open.

Top Bar hives - One thriving well, brood good, everyone happy, good balance. Other, no sign honey, lot of bees, and a small amount nectar. Fed twice with sugar water, gone very quickly.

Sara mentioned hive vacuum unit that we were shown last year. Jay mentioned that the switch failed on these.

Dan mentioned silver Beetle Buster.

Discussed: narrow entrance best on honeybee hives, 140mm best for hive to defend.

Can't defend wide entrance. Ventilated base successful, air circulated.

Peter Velenski – Phorid fly

Hive smashed in a tree from storm, exposed for 2 weeks, broke into 2, 30 feet apart, put back together.

Phorid fly and SHB in rescued hives. Set 2 of his traps on the outside, 2 traps on the inside of the box.

Caught 110 Phorid fly on outside, 440 PF on the inside. Uses a small takeaway container, with holes, and native bee honey inside as bait. After 3 days, took out, replaced with new, and only 2 Phorid fly caught on 2nd go. Hive doing well now. The hive is now powering on, extremely strong.

Landcare Education Program

Asked to do beekeeping and pollination session on 22 February, 9am to 1pm. 15 people or so will be attending.

Separate from Junior session, this is an adult version.

Other one is Junior Landcare program, 2 hours, 3-30 to 5-30. Booked in for June. Need blue Cards. Not sure on topic, needs an activity to go with it.

Honeybee Farm Day

Alan Rainbow - 27th / 28th January, Honeybee Farm are having a special day after Australia Day, bus trip coming in, requested we give a talk on bees.

Valley Bees Open Day

Very difficult to contact Dairy and Cattle Pavilion. Last meeting Imbil School declined catering, too far for them to travel. Still looking at fundraising opportunity for Imbil School at our event. Bill has an idea (no doubt we'll hear about it!) Wayne Smith- Gympie Fundraising - Non profit. Lions chips, etc. Focus on fundraisers, more than commercial outlets.

Australian Women in Beekeeping

have requested interaction with VB, more details to come.

Bill McIntosh

Just down the road there are 2 hives in water meter boxes, has got permission to take one out. On 11 January will do transfer. Reg has offered a box. If 2 hives are obtained, donate one for raffle Bee Open Day. Auction one hive off. 19A Noosa Road, opposite old Drive In, 9am.

Tim Heard has indicated he will also donate a hive again for raffle.

Derek - February Native Bees

For February Native Bee Session, Derek has suggested that we have a Show and Tell of boxes and the different techniques we all have. Compare notes!

Special glass

for observation hives, Glenbo still following up.

Close at 2-44pm.

Special Presentation and gift to Phil and Debbie, who are departing the Honeybee Farm. We wish them well, along with Andrew, on their new ventures, and hope to see more of them. What a wonderful addition to our lives these three have given us!

Raffle – 12 prizes

Multiple raffle winners. But remember, as beekeepers, we are all winners!
Now, let's get into the bee banter, BBQ and festive cheer!

TREASURERS REPORT - VALLEY BEES ---DATE

MEETING HELD -- 8/12/19

MRCCC Acct			Total
Balance Last Meeting			1944.52
Deposits			
Membership			60.00
Withdrawals			
Current Balance			2004.52

Bendigo Acct			Total
Balance Last Meeting			3647.17
Deposits			
Meeting Entry Fees			\$ 74.35
Posters			
Books			\$ 30.00
Apithor Sales			\$ 198.00
Membership			\$ 30.00
Misc			
Total Dep.			\$ 332.35
Withdrawals/Payments			
Raffle			\$ 15.00
Honey Bee Hire			\$ 50.00
Membership			\$ 60.00
MISC			\$ 217.40
Total WD			\$ 342.40
CURRENT BALANCE			3637.12

MRCCC Total	2004.52
Bendigo Total	3637.12
Grand Total	5641.64
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00
Grand Total	5741.64