

VALLEY BEES AGM and GENERAL MEETING

HONEYBEE FARM 8 April 2018

Athol opened 87th meeting at 1.30pm. He welcomed everyone, especially new members and visitors.

Apologies

Derek Cooper, Graeme Coyne, Barbara Sullivan, Skaidra Craig, Joan McVilly, Scott Taylor, Sherie Atherton, Crysta Louw, Mel Marx, Max Lindeggar.

Minutes

March Minutes were sent out by email and some paper copies printed.
Pauline moved, Kaye sec minutes be accepted, carried.

Business:

- Foundation sheets - Pauline waiting for price comparison. Burnett Bees \$2.30 a sheet (for 100, picked up), Pauline trying for \$2.10
- Bee Expo 15 September is set to go. A committee will be set up to run the Expo.

Treasurer's Report

Please don't use foreign coins to pay your \$2. This includes NZ coins.

Balance MRCCC \$3428.08

Bendigo Bank \$2918.52

Total \$6326.60

Jeanne moved, Mark seconded that treasurer's report be accepted, carried.

Reports

Vic about Landcare Bees. First Saturday of the month at Landcare. About 12 attendees; bees healthy. Flow hive doing well. A bit of chalk brood but camphor laurel chips used successfully. Signs needed. Epipen out of date - need to new one.

Athol will return old ones and buy two new ones.

Small hive beetle still active.

Phil from Honeybee Cottages. 17 March, 18 attendees. A bit of SHB in end hive. Queen in top of second hive - why not leave her there? Athol said bees like to stack honey ABOVE the brood. Not the best idea to have two boxes of brood - the bees work a vertical pattern in the boxes rather than filling both boxes. Members endorsed use of queen excluders.

Lindsay working with hives that have been neglected such that the wood and frames are rotten.
Athol and Sarah can help after the Show.

Phil handed out summary about the shed. Need to move then plumb the sink. Estimate now \$3784 for Valley Bees. Aiming to be finished on 21 March. Phil acknowledged hours of volunteer time and thanked them for a big effort.

Vic moved, Jeanne seconded that Phil be reimbursed \$716 and some cents. Carried.
John moved, Michelle seconded that we pay Budget Steel \$83.65 account. Carried.

Bill (Derek away) about native bees. Investigating Bill's method of propagating hives with connecting pipe. Hooked up natural log hive (estimated 80 years old) with 3 duplicate hives. Inspected two hives which remain fairly empty. Bill offered to have another field day at his place.

General business

Vic - Recent weather - drought, rainy periods, unseasonal conditions. Erratic conditions means unusual flowering patterns in many plants. Trees have different flowering cycles; skip flowering; flower twice; flowers but not much nectar. Takes 6-12 months to establish normal flowering routine. Wattle provides low grade pollen, no nectar. Pollen, nectar and fruit requires huge amount of energy on behalf of the tree. First thing to go is nectar if the tree is under duress.

Rob Mallett - Chalk brood despite camphor laurel chips. What causes it? Shade? Athol's advice is to put hives in full sun.

Gympie Show

Schedule available on Gympie Show website or here as handouts. Comb honey is flat square or rectangular rather than in a jar. About 10-15mm honey in bottom; same honey as in comb. Two jars for an entry. Jars available today, QBA paid \$260 for jars, 100 spare lids for people with recycled jars. All exhibits, wax and honey, must be property and produce of exhibitors' own apiaries, except for art sections. Section for novice entrants. Bring entries to May meeting. Tom will organise the setup of the Show exhibit. All electrical gear used at the Show must be safety tagged (phone chargers exempt?). QBA will pay for tagging. A Show society official checks that the tags are current. \$1 entry fee.

More details available on our website
<https://www.valleybees.org.au/calendar-events/>

Athol and Tom. Need volunteers to man the Gympie Show exhibit.

Pauline. Not entering QBA this year. QBA entries in class 1, 2 and 3 have to be tested, and entry fee reflects cost of testing. Entrants must attend.

Events section on our VB website includes advice re preparation for honey exhibits and competitions.

Next QBA meeting 20 March in Childers. Need a secretary.

Vic signs and epipens. There now has to be a sign warning people that you are opening your hives. Athol to organise epipens before next workshops. Signs: Glenbo proposed that he does sign artwork for everyone.

Valley Bees logo for t-shirts? In the too-hard basket?

AGM. Athol won't be nominating as chairman in June this year. At May meeting, we will discuss what VB needs in terms of office bearers. Glenbo suggested Athol might be patron? New roles e.g. regarding media and public relations, and Bee Open Day.

Tom. Graeme Coyne's son Tony accidentally killed in a work accident. Graeme may go back to NZ and will have hives and equipment to sell. Phil moved that club send sympathy card. Seconded John. Carried. Jeanne will do this.

Raffle.

Meeting closed 2.50 pm.

Afternoon tea and conversation followed.