

VALLEY BEES GENERAL MEETING

HONEYBEE FARM - 13 May 2018

Athol opened the 88th meeting at 1.30pm. He welcomed everyone, especially new members and visitors.

Apologies received from Kayle Findlay, Wayne Smith, Kay Cheval, Reg and Marj Hatch, Skaidra Craig, Michael Condon, Max Lindeggar, Joan McVilly, Victor and Mariana Proksch.

Minutes

March minutes were sent out by email and some paper copies printed.

Maree moved, Howie sec minutes be accepted, carried.

Business:

Athol bought one EpiPen for Vic; signed for another two because they are in short supply. We will share one pen in the meantime.

Show display has been set up well by Tom and helpers. Furniture belongs to QBA. Profit on honey sold goes to maintenance of the display materials. Thanks to Pauline for packing the honey for sale.

Correspondence in

Email from Jack who filters wax and wants to obtain dirty wax

Letter from Landcare for Valley Bees contributing to community workshops on March 13.

Pauline mov, Dan sec that correspondence be received. Carried.

Treasurer's report

Balance MRCCC \$3448.08

Bendigo Bank \$2062.74

Total \$5470.82

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

Jeanne: booklet about diseases just under \$10 if we order 50. Dan mov, Vic sec that we buy 50. Carried.

Reports

Vic about Landcare Bees. First Saturday of the month at Landcare. 12 enthusiastic attendees. Strong hives with plenty of workers to forage; weaker hives with fewer workers have eaten their stores. So Vic shifted frames of honey from stronger hive to sustain the weaker hive. Athol said that tres commit a. Lot of energy to nectar, pollen and fruit so first thing to go during stress is nectar.

Email from Toowoomba beekeepers about safety procedures at public events.

Briefing to new attendees, provision of veils, Vic takes his own suits, request for attendees to alert staff if they are stung, (we don't use protective tent or preferred bees), risk assessment written by Athol, Vic and Phil (MRCCC insurer auspiced), EpiPen. We need to put the sign up.

Vic wondered if we could have a sign with briefing for latecomers.

Beehive open sign: Eric said that Adrian at QBA already has a sign for members of the public entering property. Pauline is going to source the wording.

Phil from Honeybee Cottages. Opened one hive, the one with the beetle. 10-12 attendees.

Workshop (shed) status info sheet passed around. Valley Bees will have paid around \$3400. Phil invited everyone to have a look. The code is 1234 for the door. Phil thanked VB members for time and effort; Phil passed on that Allan said the work was professional - high praise!

Vic mov, Maree sec that Phil's invoice be passed \$343.81. Carried.

Derek about native bees. Next session before AGM, christen the workshop to work on hives from landcare. We need a drill press 125mm; Dan has one which might be big enough. Scott suggested that the Mens' sheds have donated tools which may be worth sourcing.

Derek mov, Glenbo sec that we buy long drills for native bees.

Meeting here at Honeybee Cottages even on Show Day.

Derek reported that macadamia trees look like flowering well this winter.

Derek reported that neonicotinoids have been banned in Europe because of danger to bees.

Harold. Native bee hives unable to requeen because of food shortages. Harold has requeened hives but is reporting that there are not many queen cells in the hives.

Keep an eye on what the bees are bringing out - the little brown blobs are spent eggs and show that the hive is breeding.

Dan. Cut down a pine tree, the sap was harvested by the native bees for resin for propolis.

Vic. Native bee wars to get food?

Glenbo. Honeybees harvesting something from mulch/potting mix.

Rob. Do bees normally swarm at this time of the year - probably not. However, his bees did swarm. Bees in his area have access to lots of nectar (Maleny). Eric had swarms last week.

Glenbo. Noted that native bee hives found in concrete bricks and underground water metre boxes. Suggested we should look more at what makes these so successful. Consistency of temperature.

General business

Gympie Show. Tickets sent by email. Is there a schedule for members for working at the show?

Craigs to donate large light box and stand, which will convert well to a solar wax melter, (it needs some attention) to HoneyBee workshop.

AGM positions:

Chairman

(keeps abreast of procedural requirements, records and activities, supports office bearers, negotiates misunderstandings and disputes, liaison between clubs, liaison with school re Open Day, reachable by phone for people needing help with bees, runs meetings)

Vice-chairman

Public Relations Officer, including website

Treasurer, including membership

Minutes Secretary

Workshop coordinators:

Honeybee Sessions at Honeybee Farm (3rd Saturday of month)

Honeybee Sessions at Landcare (1st Saturday of month),

Native Bee Coordinator

Bee Open Day Coordinator

AGM scrutineer and ballots - Jeanne to organise, or better to reach a creative compromise.

Raffle + Mother's Day raffle

Meeting closed 3.10 pm. Afternoon tea and conversation followed.