

Minutes

Valley Bees Meeting - Sunday 8th July 2018 - #90

Meeting opened 1-30pm

Welcomed visitors and new members

Apologies

Michael Condon, Skaidra Craig, Kay Cheval, Barb Sullivan, Kayle Findlay, Christa Louw and Mel Marx, Joan McVilly

Minutes emailed and posted out from June Meeting

Business arising from Minutes

Noted: last meeting didn't do final selection Open Day Committee and Overseer, although most positions have been allocated.

Moved that Minutes have been read, moved Glenbo 2nd Scott - Carried

Treasurer's Report - Jeanne

MRCCC \$3448-08 last month balance

Reimbursed MRCCC for shed, back into Bendigo Bank - \$1175-46

New MRCCC Balance \$2272.62

Bendigo account \$1093-58

Money has come in from entry fees, posters and apithor

\$1686-79

Payout for raffle and hire, epipens, security \$532

New Bendigo Balance \$2280-05

Total from both, current

\$4552-67

Jeanne moved that report been read, accepted. 2nd Pauline.

Vic Report - Landcare Session

Yesterday morning cloudy and dull drizzly. Sun peeped through at 10am, still had a dozen people attend. Opened up hives. Flow hive opened and checked, okay.

Other hives, surprised with strength, as have been doing it tough, no honey for 3 / 4 months. we've been feeding the new hives.

But this time much stronger, the bees haven't been using their stores, enough nectar and pollen coming in. Looks like a good spring coming up - iron bark coming into flower now. Blue gum.

Anticipating Spring starting new nucs.

Phil Report - Honeybee Farm Session

Had a great turnout - 20 plus people, with half a dozen new people. Very encouraging to see.

Report is very similar to Vic's Landcare report, there is a good store of honey. We took 2 frames out for extraction for the new people to see. We extracted honey at the new workshop, used for the 1st time. Very good.

Number 1 hive the Small Hive Beetle is a bit worse, but the rest are free of beetle. Good sign.

There was no need to swap around frames of honey, as the Queen had remained in the downstairs brood this time.

In the flow hive, the honey is starting to come in, good signs. The display hive is looking in good condition as well.

We have a wild honeybee hive in a tree here, we observed at 2pm there looked like a lot of pre-swarming, but by 3-00 all calmed down again. Vic explained that the young bees having practice flights and playtime (and bees at cleaning the hive by flying out and dropping unwanted stuff from the hive).

Jeanne is to supply member application forms to Honeybee Farm.

Mark Report - Flow hives

Landcare flow hive

Bees working well in the frames, some honey coming in.

2nd flow hive had brood in the top box above excluder. Queen came up and the cells in the flow hive section are so deep that she could only lay drone eggs. When hatched out can't get through to bottom brood box. Replace plastic excluder with metal excluder.

She was good sized, so figure it's a fault. Buy an 8-frame excluder.

Derek Report - Native bees

The First Australian native bee Conference was held at the Gold Coast last Sunday. Both he and Vic attended as reps from Valley Bees, and Glenbo attended as a guest of Tim Heard. Glenn Otto was there as a presenter.

Very interesting and enlightening

There were some excellent "3 minutes talk sessions" at the conference, which were short, sharp, fast presentations by numerous people working on various aspects of native bees.

Half of the presentations were on stingless bees, and half on solitary and all bees.

There is a written report from the conference at the base of this newsletter.

Cadagi resin and native bees

Glenn Otto - It seems that active bees collect and deposit in a special part of hive, and the cadagi resin is not used in structure of hive, the bees put it in a spot where they can access it. It is extremely clear and extra sticky. The train of thought is that it is used to stick down. It is too soft to use in the structure of the hive.

Many of the hive failures were not necessarily because of cadagi resin, as first believed.

Many of the hives didn't die until 43 degrees or later.

Cadagi is more about the annoyance with the sticky seeds gathering at the front entrance of the hive.

Told story of a unique trap to put on front of the hive, form a T-section with toilet roll, bees came in, used coconut fibre in entry, and the bees shed the cadagi seed on the coconut fibre. Give it a shake and the seeds fall.

Athol - cadaghi trees, although they are native, have been moved out of their natural climatic zone.

It was 'tree of year' in nurseries in 1978, and everyone planted it because it was a fast growing wind break. Native bees in the cadagi's natural climatic zone of the Tablelands and Kuranda, they handle the stickiness and the seeds well. Up north the cadagi tree relies of the native bees to spread its seeds. A successful symbiotic relationship up north. But not here, out of context.

Robyn - with her hive, 100 seedlings have come up in a row out from the hived. Do those seedlings cause a problem?

Pollination in macadamia plantations

Athol - Pollination - bees aren't fools, if they have a blue gum within 50m in full flower, they won't go beyond that. They don't always go to where we want them to pollinate. In his experience best pollination is having 2 hives planted throughout plantation as against one block of hives in one corner.

Derek - Chris Fuller likes to have a hive under every row.

Native bees general

Derek - spoke of vertical split from Dean Haley with a new specially designed box.

Athol - knows of someone splitting native hives and selling them in Sydney for \$500. There are issues with sending hives long distances. Tim Heard and others are insisting not to move species out of their natural climatic zone. At one workshop in Sydney he noted hockings in box, immediately closed up and didn't continue with split.

Hockingsi have taken over a lot of hives in Brisbane due to them being more aggressive. They are the bees found if bees are in a meter box. Pop open the bubbly if there is a carbonaria in the meter box!

Bi-monthly Native Bee Session

Next meeting, we are going to Robyn's place for our bi-monthly Native Bee Session at 10am before the main meeting.

Bee Open Day

Patches and 'shopping bags' selling at Open Day

Bag an they be flat based, not sleeved, as more practical.

Ordering 250. \$2-50 purchase price.

Patches ordering 100.

\$3-50 + GST + freight.

80mm round, but recommended to be 50mm round instead, more suitable for caps.

Mary Valley Show at Imbil - Pauline

Everyone bring honey to next meeting for entry into Imbil Show on 18 August - it will be a 2 jar entry.

General Business

QBA varroa

Tabled correspondence from QBA about the varroa hive on ship in Melbourne Port

Did have varroa, but has been contained - survey hives negative

Victoria needs major pollination for almonds, the whole shipment can be condemned / destroyed if anything found.

Epipen

We need to have these at all events, including open gardens

Signs

Sign to be made up, keep it simple: **"There are active beehives on this site"**

Robyn put motion, 2nd Glenbo. Passed.

It was noted that a surprisingly lot of people are illiterate, so a photo of bee / hive as well on sign.

Business cards printing up

Dan moved, 2nd Maree

Q B A

Message from Jo

Thanks for Valley Bees work and contribution to QBA Day last year at Gympie Showgrounds.

Money generated went to good use.

Thanks for assistance for work at Gympie Show as well, this goes to help Wide Bay Branch of QBA. Wide Bay donated \$10000 to upgrade QBA computer system etc

MRCCC Meeting

Athol, Eric and Jeanne met with Deb at MRCCC office last Thursday.

At Open Day - it was discussed the Insurance Policy and Risk Management

It was explained about native hive splits

We don't meet risk management criteria to do a split where general public is involved, without signing on.

Alternative is for a separate insurance policy to be taken out.

Unique Native Bee display at Open Day

Work will be done on creating a unique native bee experience on the day, with a focus on the Education Method for hive duplication, and have a collection of VB members and other experts to showcase.

Also we will have a great display of many of the native bee hive designs in the hall, with an explanation sheet on each of the designs.

More to be discussed at our September meeting.

Bee Open Get Togethers

Tuesday 24 August, and Saturday 28th August.

Both at Landcare Nursery

Meeting closed at 3-35pm

Raffle drawn.

Afternoon tea and bee-banter

1ST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE BEE CONFERENCE 2018 GOLD COAST

The conference was sold out with over 200 people attending. There 35 speakers in four sessions through the day, they had from 3 to 10 minutes to get their message across. Most were research people describing what their field was and the results that they had found, most of them said at the end of their talk,

BUT we need to do more work in this field to have all the answers. It was pleasing to see that most of the researchers were quite young and shows that there is becoming more money available for this work. I have a sample of one of the slides that was shown to show the depth of information that was presented, this shows food sources of pollinators.

A FEW NOTES THAT I TOOK

Australia has about 1600 described species of native and many more that are not identified most of which are ground nesting.

We were given a book that can be used to identify the bee genera but you need a microscope for the job and a very still bee ie dead. This book's author is Tobias Smith who is usually at our Bee Open Day.

A lot of work is being done with *Tetragonula Carbonaria*

which we are all familiar with, points:-

Can be 25 to 125 colonies per ha

Drones make up 20 to 30% of the hive all year round

Drones can fly 1km a day for mating and have been found up to 10km from their parent colony

Queens mate with only one drone

Some viruses can transfer from honey bees to native bees.

One such virus *Lysinibacillus* is not readily detected in foraging bees but can be found in discarded larvae. They can be found on a plate placed in front of a hive and checked for dead larvae. I think a shelf or plate in front of a hive could be a good addition to our hives to check for such things as you could also monitor the number of used brood cells that are discarded as a guide to the health of the hive.

Insecticides

Quite often the sprays do not affect the foraging bees themselves but the pollen that they carry back to the hive is infected. This is fed to the brood and the result is that the hatching bees are disabled in various ways and usually they are tossed out of the hive and if you are monitoring your plate you will know that something has gone wrong.

Syrphid fly and phorid fly

Take over of native bee hives is increasing and an effective deterrent has been found in Citronella oil 80% Lemon grass 20% or cedar wood oil. If this is sprayed daily when a hive has been split and honey spilt, will give good results. Also if 20 drops of citronella and lemon scented gum oil is mixed with Vaseline and smeared on the hive joint will protect the hive.

Talks on comparison on pollination efficiency

Between honey bees and all native bees basically all flowers are different and the more pollinators you have the better but in most of the agriculture crops which are imported honey bees which are imported too, do most of the pollination. One crop that is different is Lucerne seed apparently a Lucerne flower has a little trip mechanism in the flower so that when a honey bee lands on the flower it gets a uppercut from the trip in the flower and so they don't like working Lucerne so it is up to other pollinators to do an effective job.

Macadamias on the other hand is a native to Australia

Where the *Casuarina* is also native are pollinated very effectively by these bees who are mainly interested in collecting pollen. Honey bees by their higher work loads (they cover more flowers by working quicker and longer in the day) pollinate macadamias well by the incidental brushing past the pollen on their way to the nectar deeper in the flower.

All bees are better pollinators

if they have a diversification of flowers to pick from which leads to a stronger hive.

Trials are conducted on what pollinators are visiting what flowers

How many times a day and you can imagine that manually would be quite a boring and time-consuming job. Two ways they are overcoming this, one by having a pad in front of the hive with iridescent powder so that the bees pick it up as they go out, then it is deposited on the flower and then the researcher goes around with a fluorescent light at night and collects the data, another way that it is hard to believe is to collect the flower and take it back to the lab and count the footprints on the flower with detection instruments.

Trials indicated that to achieve a good crop

It is more important to have plants in excellent health than it is to have excellent pollination but also on a trial on raspberries without excellent pollination there will be no excellent fruit.

Trials with solitary bee walls

Indicate that out of all holes 37% are bees 62% are wasps even though this does not sound good wasps are very good predators of spiders and caterpillars and it leads to a good balance in nature.

Cadaghi

I have left this to last to wake everybody up, on investigation on Cadaghi trees which in the researchers view does not cause any great problem to native bees it has been found that the resin of the cadaghi has scents that will repel small hive beetle in all hives. All that we need to do now is find a way to collect the resin in usable quantities so that can be proved in practice.

I hope we can source some of the slides from the conference so that on our next native morning Glenbo can give a more in depth talk about the findings.

Derek Cooper
08-07-2018

Our business card . . .



www.valleybees.org.au

Valley Bees Community
FOR EVERYONE

Honey Bees • Stingless Bees • Solitary Bees

ON A MONTHLY BASIS, WE HOLD

• Meetings • Hands-on hive sessions • Workshops •

BASED IN THE KANDANGA, MARY VALLEY, GYMPIE REGION