

Valley Bees Monthly Meeting Minutes for November 2018

Sunday 11th November, Honeybee Farm. Meeting opened by Eric at 1-30pm

Welcome: Eric opened the meeting with a welcome to all and asked for any members attending their first meeting:

Visitors: Peter & Sandra, Michael & James Mason, Wendy & David & Dave. Found about us by the internet and website.

Apologies: Glenbo Craig, Athol and Skaidra Craig, Reg Hatch, Kayle Findlay, Tom Codde, Michael Condon, Bill McIntosh, Barbara Sullivan, Kaye Cheval, Dan and Roxy Luck, Victor and Mariana Proksch.

Minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were sent out and members acknowledged receipt and read:

Pauline moved minutes be accepted, Maree 2nd, Passed by members.

Some members stated that they didn't receive the minutes. Not sure if something went wrong with the email.

Business arising from minutes:

Christmas break-up discussion. After discussion of options, the members decided that the lunch and tea will be after the meeting. Jeanne has organized lunch to be provided by the club with entry for the day \$5 to cover some of the costs. Members can bring dessert to share.

Imbil school: Question was asked about what donation will be given to Imbil School from the "Bee Open Day". After costs and expenditures, our profit for the day was \$2,7???. As our donation is usually 1/3 of our profit it was agreed by the membership that we would round the donation to \$900. Jeanne will make an appointment to present the donation to the school

Correspondence in and out:

Eric noted that Dianne Clarke from the former "Range Bees" sent an email to 4 members as to what is the status of the money that was given over to Valley Bees from Range Bees when that club was dismantled. She is concerned as to if Valley Bees has spent the money on solitary bee educational things etc...and is basically asking that any money left from Range Bees be given back to her as she wants to start up a new Bee group. Pauline read the email to the membership.

Since Derek received the email in his personal email he made a personal reply to her email. He presumed that she was getting minutes from the meetings. We have been holding Sunday morning workshops and concentrating on solitary bees every other workshop. He said that hopefully she can come to the next meeting. Glenbo was originally intending to put out a booklet on solitary bees.

Discussion regarding the email.

There have been educational posters etc made up on solitary and native bees. Our Group focuses on all bees, including native and solitary bees. According to the members present who were prior members of Range Bees; that club was closed down because of lack of interest and the members were quite happy to remain members of Valley Bees and put any moneies that they had accumulated as Range Bees into the Valley Bees account. Dianne was moving away and so the club was dismantled. Any new club that she wants to get started will be a whole new group and it seems would have to start from scratch.

How Valley Bees will respond to this email will be discussed and decided on at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

MRCCC last meeting balance \$2,534.84 Deposits: for membership \$50. The current MRCCC balance is \$2,584.84

Bendigo Bank Account balance from last meeting \$3,416.71. Deposits of \$100.04 entry fees, Apithor \$168. Bags & badges \$39.00, membership \$50. 2 Disease Booklets \$20. Varous Books \$290. Withdrawals: Raffle/Gifts \$75. Venue hire \$50.

Membership to MRCCC \$50. Gympie Show donation for sponsorship \$30. Total Withdrawals: 205.00

The current Bendigo Bank balance is \$3, 879.11 **Total in both \$6,463.95**

Jeanne moved that Treasurer's report be approved, Pauline 2nd. Passed by members

Report Landcare Session - Vic

Held Landcare session last Saturday. 18 people showed up. Consistently nearly half were new to the workshop. Some oldies show up and it's always nice to have a couple of people to help to collect honey spin etc. This workshop was especially important as it demonstrated what is less than ideal about beekeeping. As they had lost a hive 12 months ago to hive beetle, they started a new hive and then put a top box onto it. They didn't have an excluder at the time and must have had the queen upstairs. Make sure the excluder is above the queen. The two nucs that they started...one has been sold and one didn't have a queen, but was very strong so they made another nuc from it...and it seems that it still doesn't have a queen because they saw no queen or no eggs in either of the new nucs. Other hives were in good condition extracted a good bit of honey and all got to have some to take home. Good morning and good support. It just goes to show that beekeeping is not all good all the time. Beekeeping is an ongoing learning experience.

Eric noted that at QBA meeting the concensus was about the same. Egg laying was patchy and beetle has begun to be found.

Honeybee Farm Report - Phil

Thank you to Marie for helping with whiteboard record. Had about 18 or so people...good to see youngsters coming along and showing lots of interest. Took about 18 or 23 frames and was a busy day for extracting. They have started a system of having a subject for each workshop and this week was "extraction and storage of honey". Two of the hives lids were full of burr comb. Is it a good thing to put a board (inner lid) on top of the top frames to keep from making burr comb. Make these boards 16 inches square for ventelation. The hive that Debbie and Kaye got from a pine tree was a bit of a mess and was cleaned up. Interesting that some of the cells had hatching bees coming out from the brood cells. They didn't extract from flow hive but that hive is full and will need to be delt with soon. Two hives need top boxes and will put them on next week. A bit of hive beetle but not too much. All pretty good.

Mark talked about the flow hive. The queen was up top so they put a new excluder on and she still got up there. Will have to sort this out.

Native Bee Report – Derek

Haven't done anything for a couple of months. Glenbo will update us about maybe a speaker he has lined up for native bees in the future.

Robyn Bowman: Report on solitary bees. She has several ideas and questions. She has been using the Mohawk method for bee foraging and it was a failed experiment. The Mohawk method is when you leave grass in-between rows of trees to encourage wildflowers etc. She bought a book about solitary bees and read about the idea of using a shoebox under house with nesting boxes in it to monitor the bee progress. How do you know when to dismantle or clean the solitary bee boxes? Discussion.
Regarding clay boxes...She has resin bees buzzing around blue banded bee boxes? Doesn't know why. Discussion.
Regarding wooden nesting boxes...How do you drill the holes into the boxes?? End or side. Cypress would be easier to drill. Peter Velenski may have some cypress for her to use.

Scott Top Bar Hive Report: A young woman got in touch with him regarding top bar hives. While she was overseas there was a conference about listening to the bees. Spiritual aspect of beekeeping. Her interest in top bar was that a friend has offered to give her a top bar hive and is interested in setting them up in Palmwoods area. She talked about "Naked beekeeping"? That would be very interesting. Scott said she could use his veil etc. She wanted to learn how he works with the top bar hive. Being gentle and considerate of the bees. She suggested that the entrance should be in the middle of the box. May give that a try. Both of his boxes are full of bees and very active. He has been catching swarms and now has about 11 hives. Two of them have dwindled down and maybe don't have a queen. Also had a total slime-out of a hive. He noticed that the front of the "slim-out" hive opening was black and about a week later there was liquid dripping from it and the hive seemed to be falling apart. The woman who visited to learn about the top bar helped him with cleaning out the slimed hive. Learning the reality of beekeeping. The top bar hives seem to be more resistant to small hive beetle...maybe because they are so strong. Eric asked if his ventilation in the top bar hive is better, and maybe that makes a difference in the moisture content of the hive. Scott said that it seems to be better ventilation and also the top bar seems to have more light. Honey seems to be dryer/thicker.

Eric asked for any more reports:

Veronica reported on a native bee workshop at Maroochydore Botanical Gardens this last weekend that went quite well. Maroochy Shire sponsors the workshops there. They had Rob Raabe, Tim Heard and other native bee "experts" there. Veronica and John were given a certificate of appreciation for their work with that group.

Sara reported on the Rotary Club, Quilt and Craft Show on Nov 3rd and 4th at the Gympie Showgrounds.

Saturday Howie and Sara manned the stall and Sunday Eric and Jeanne manned the stall with Athol and Glenbo as well. It was a very good show with lots of people asking lots of questions. The stall was very well presented and everyone was interested. Many business cards were given out and our website seemed to be of interest. Several people expressed interest in joining our group and will try to make it to our meetings. Glenbo has a new handout for the website which is very helpful for interested people. It was a very busy weekend and was very good for expanding the interest in beekeeping and the importance of bees in our environment. Members should consider what other shows or events that they might be interested in participating in as it is not only a learning experience for the general public, but is also a learning experience for the members. It would be nice to have more membership participation in events like this. All in all, the event was very worthwhile.

Eric: Thanks to all reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Eric asked Paulne to discuss Valley Bee volunteering at QBA events? There is some confusion as to what insurance will cover volunteers and the show in the QBA stall. Valley Bee members may not be members of QBA and would our insurance cover them or does QBA cover any volunteers in their stall. Show society will sort out the insurance issues with QBA. It is important to sign the sign-on sheet whenever you are volunteering or participating in any event for insurance purposes.

Eric: Two weeks ago got a notice on Facebook from a person who has a double nuc hive at Noosavale Road. The bees seem very angry and he wanted to know why. He is a pretty keen young beekeeper. Eric went to check it out and the bees were indeed very angry and it seems that the man had gotten wrong advice as to how to construct his hive etc. He will get a queen cell from Brett Dean "Deans Queens" and put the bees in a proper hive and see how he goes.

Sara: Regarding taking a hive from a stump from Tigigan Road. They met a man at the Quilt Show who has a stump that seems to be in a flood zone that has a strong honey bee hive in it and he would like to see someone come and take it. We discussed the pros and cons of taking a hive from a stump...the logistics, the possibility of disease...maybe it should just be happy where it is. Sara will have further discussion with some members and she will notify the person as to whether we will take the hive or not.

Meeting closed at 3-10pm

Supper time, random bee-banter.
Raffle drawn – winner was Marj.

But we're all winners, as beekeepers, aren't we?

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Note

Valley Bees now has their Bee Registration # V108.

Our Committee:

Chair • Eric Jordan • jeanneanderic@live.com.au

Vice Chair • Pauline Alexander • palmsalt234@gmail.com

Treasurer • Jeanne Jordan • jeanneanderic@live.com.au

Media and Design • Glenbo Craig • glenbo@live.com.au

Members Secretary • Jeanne Jordan • jeanneanderic@live.com.au

Honeybee Sessions Landcare • Vic Finney • vicfinney43@gmail.com

Honeybee Sessions Honeybee Cottages • Phil Brown • info@honeybeefarm.com.au

Native Bee Sessions • Derek Cooper • dcooper@bigpond.com

Flow Hive 'Unique Share Link' • Maree and Mark Hannon • flowvalleybees2@gmail.com

Patron • Athol Craig • glenbo@live.com.au