

Valley Bees Monthly Meeting Minutes for December 2018 - #95

Sunday 9th December, Honeybee Farm.

Welcome: Pauline opened the meeting at 1-30pm with a welcome to all.

Apologies: Eric Jordan, Max Lindegger, Skaidra Craig, John & Dianne Flanagan, Tom Codde, Peter Velenski, Reg and Marj, Wayne Smith, Rob.

Treasurer's Report from Jeanne:

MRCCC account

\$2584-84 from last meeting

One new member

Total = \$2614-84

Bendigo Bank

\$3879-11 from last meeting

Deposits \$74-30

Apithor \$228, Badges and bags \$4, Membership \$30, Nuc \$100, Books \$20, plus another \$50 membership

Outlays

Pauline \$15, \$50 hire, MRCCC membership \$30, Imbil School \$900, \$704 Apithor

Total \$506-30

Total \$2686-41

Combined total \$5301-25

Jeanne moved read and passed. 2nd Mark.

Minutes read

Dianne Clarke financial decision moved to January meeting. Moved that Minutes read. Passed.

Phil's Honeybee Farm Report

People have been phoning in a lot to the Farm with hives, swarms etc. 3 times very recently. Native bee hives and swarms of honeybees.

The group needs a volunteer base, for members to collect swarms and collect hives.

Deb was ready to rescue these recent hives where possible.

With swarms, recommended to leave it overnight, and check in again next morning if the swarm is still there.

Our 17 November workshop had a very good turnout, with 4 new people signing in. Peter and Sandra, and Robyn and --.

It was a very busy day, took out 30 frames of honey, a full-on day extracting.

Not much beetle, which is a good sign. All hives are strong. Placed a few new supers on, particularly hive number 6.

Flow hive drained 3 frames of honey, very good. The new Solitary Flow hive is working well - commented that it's a very handsome little hive indeed! Workshop, we considered cancelling in Jan, but recommended to go ahead next Saturday and the 3rd Saturday in January. Thanks Phil.

Derek's Native Bee Report

This morning we held our bi-monthly session at Derek and Lyn's place.

Vic brought a log - 43 years old, log had already been split previously, so undid the strap, it came apart well, we divided it, and closed it up again. Good job.

Other boxes Vic brought along, Hockingsi hive very touchy, (must have been at the peak of their 5 hour cycle!)

Replaced some boxes. Good s and new boxes.

15 people - all happy to be there, very educational morning. Thanks Derek.

Native bees next Sunday

Next Sunday Bill has got 7 hives to look at, weather pending - looks like rains are forecast. Making it a Valley Bees morning. 16th at 9am - at Bills, 94 Noosa Road, just past the old drive-in, near the Wreckers.

Moved and passed by group that we hold it. Once again, weather pending.

Vic's Landcare Report

Good roll up last Saturday, and an interesting morning. Had success again with reading a few pages from Athol's bee book, plus Phil did a reading at the Honeybee Farm session.

2 nucs at Landcare had no queens previously, and we had to put a frame of eggs in each last time.

Now, one nuc had 3 healthy queen cells, 2nd one no had no queen cells. So put some mopre brood in.

Even after a week, the nucs were full of beetle, hadn't noticed any in hives, but had taken over in the nuc.

Also notes that queens had been getting above the excluders into the honey supers, but couldn't find either of the queens.

Lots of honey taken out, it has been a good season, extracted, and jars of honey given to all the attendees.

An all-round good morning. Thanks Vic.

Reports from Glenbo

Propolis Study and Report

There has been a Propolis Study, on the success and improvements in having rough surfaces inside the new hives. Seems that the roughness of the inside surface of the boxes induces the hive to create more propolis building in the new hive, which leads to an increase in hive health. An interesting new report, and one well worth reading and looking in to. Some members agreed that the rough inside surface is good, as opposed to a very smooth painted surface which doesn't tempt the hive to start producing that protective propolis.

"In a new study published today in the Journal of Economic Entomology, researchers looked at four different ways to enhance propolis growth in bee hives. They found that three surface modifications — plastic trap material on the hive wall interior, parallel saw cuts on hive wall interior, and brush-roughened wall interiors — were all equally capable of resulting in increased propolis production, compared to a fourth method, a control, in which the hive wall interiors were left unmodified."

Glenbo will prepare an easier to read summary, and make it available late February. In the meantime, both these sites are well worth an inquisitive look:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30496476>

<https://entomologytoday.org/2018/11/28/propolis-how-beekeepers-encourage-better-hive-health/>

Egg laying and energy cycles in Stingless Bee Hives

Tim Heard has studied recently the cycles of the stingless bees, and concluded that there seems to be a definite energy cycle within the hives, every 5 hours there is a crescendo of energy and the queen lays for 3 minutes, then the hive reverts back to a low energy, the workers slowly go about their business, creating new cells, filling them with food, getting them ready for the queen to lay, the energy gradually building up over the next 5 hours or so to the next crescendo of egg-laying. Interesting stuff.

Noted that this isn't apparent in the honey bee hives, the queen seems more constant, and we are also not sure yet which species of the stingless bees this has been observed in.

Glenbo will discuss further with Tim Heard, and make a report available in the new year, late February.

New Native Bee Industry Group

There is a new Native Bee Body being formed and set-up to assist all groups throughout the state. Glenbo will be in contact with Tim Heard, and make information about this available to the group in the new year.

Stingless Bee Hive at Kandanga Info Centre

There is a very strong stingless bee hive in a huge stump directly outside the Kandanga Information Centre in the main street. Valley Bees have been approached to oversee the protection and re-positioning of this hive, as the stump has to be removed, by request from the Kandanga Group. The stump is huge, but the hive is accessible.

We will meet at the site on Tuesday 11th December at 10am, and make a recommendation at the January meeting for what action there is to be taken. A great community exercise.

Honey Bee Survey

Noted that Bee Aware, AHBIC, Plant Health Australia, AgriFutures, has an Australia-wide invitation to complete a Honey Bee Health Survey. The survey will only take 10-12 minutes to complete, closes end of year.

Scott's hives

Scott has sadly had an accident, and done his ankle in, badly smashed, which has led to him being quite incapacitated for the next 6 months or so. Scott has 9 hives including 2 Top-bar hives and 2 Poly hives, and they are in need of attention and work, which Scott cannot achieve. His leg needs to be horizontal for quite some time. It was recommended we assist him, and there will be a session at his place, held as a workshop, to go through the Top-bars and the Langstroths. It is likely that we will be doing some quick helping on the hives in the immediate timeframe, and the workshops will probably be in late January or early Feb. We will keep you posted, and will discuss this timing at the January meeting, after observation and discussion with Scott.

Fallen honey bee log hive, with honey super to attach

There was a report of a large fallen tree with a large honey bee hive in it. Glenbo has had a visit out to the site, on private property near the Gympie Railway Station. The hive has been secured and arranged in permanent position, and the owners wish to keep the log in-situ. It has been suggested that we place a Langstroth single honey super, well sealed, directly above the entrance, and see if this combo of nature and human interaction can succeed. Glenbo, Athol and Vic will visit the site in the new year, and report back to the group on progression. Could be a unique outcome.

Passing of Alan Fenton

Sadly, we have lost member Alan Fenton recently, and our condolences go to his wife Nina Saini, and family. Glenbo assisted Alan in the setting up of his hives years back (up Maryborough way), and quite a successful bee enterprise ensued. Nina has contacted us, and said that she has sold the hives and extractor, but is itemising all gear, and will let us know later about the selling of the gear. Nina is keeping their 2 native hives and will attend our native bee workshops in the future. We look forward to having her on the native bee team.

Stingless bee hive in driveway in Rifle Range Road

There is a stingless hive in an underground tap-box in the driveway in Rifle Range Road. Glenbo has visited, but due to it being previously disturbed (the day before) the recommendation is that Glenbo (and Vic) visit the site in the new year and look at removing (requested by owners).

AHBIC

Trevor Weatherhead has recently stepped down as Executive Director of AHBIC, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, and has been replaced by Sarah Paradise, based in Canberra. On behalf of the Valley Bees club, we congratulate Trevor on the wonderful service and input to honey bees over the years, and look forward to making connection with Sarah.

New book released

Glenbo has released a new book he has been working on with the team from the Little Kid's Day Out, called "When We Were Young." Brought along copies for sale. Ha! Is this a blatant plug!!!??? The book is a look into Gympie's history, through story-telling and reader-friendly anecdotes, good fun and well worth a read.

Comment from Rob

who is experimenting with growing honeycomb inside an upturned bucket placed on the tops of the hives, and brought along some samples. Impressive! But the process is very slow, and it must be a really strong hive.

Sara

passed on her thanks to Rob, for providing bees to the people Sara was mentoring. They went and collected frames etc, and were very impressed by Rob's generosity. Big thanks.

Bill

SBS (on late night TV - Saturday 10pm) showcased a young fella introducing bees, a good report. Recommended to check it out.

Meeting closed at 2-13pm

Xmas Raffle

Multiple prizes for our Xmas Raffles were drawn, lucky winners were Evonne, Sara, Nicky, Michael, Mariana, Glenbo, Shirley, Athol, Robyn, Tom and Deb.

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

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

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