

## Valley Bees Monthly Meeting Minutes for 14 April 2019 - #98

**Opened** at 1-30 by Pauline. Sara taking Minutes. Pauline noted that this is our 100<sup>th</sup> VB meeting. Read a letter from Eric regarding health concerns and would like to have the AGM moved forward. Vic stated that it is not necessary as we have Pauline to stand in for him in his absence. Membership agreed and **AGM will be held as usual in June**. The group thanked Eric for that thought and wish him well.

**We welcomed** new-bees: Trevor

**Apologies received from** Eric, Glenbo, Skaidra, Marilyn and Dan, Yvone and Ewan, Dan, Max

**Minutes were sent out and read by membership:** Mark moved that Minutes have been read and passed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pauline and passed by membership.

**Jeanne Treasurer's Report, March:** MRCCC \$2,664.84 Deposit of \$40 from membership. **March Balance: \$2,704.84**  
March: **Bendigo** \$2686.41 \$378 deposit from sales of apithor and membership entry fees.  
Withdrawals: \$206.27

**March Balance: \$2,856.14**  
**TOTAL for both accounts: \$5,520.98**

Jeanne moved to pass Shirley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed by membership.

**Athol** has been talking to MRCCC who we are under for insurance etc. and they informed him that they need no office bearers besides a meeting chairman, minutes secretary and a bookkeeper to satisfy their requirements. He would like the group to declare all office bearers vacant as of the AGM and elect officers with MRCCC's recommendations, at that time, as we think fit. Also that we don't need to keep two bank accounts and could, if we want, just to keep MRCCC account.

**Discussion:** Phil clarified that we don't need to have the officers we have now. Athol clarified that we only really need the three positions and do not necessarily need the formal offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.

**Bendigo bank discussion.** Jeanne said that it is very convenient because dealing with MRCCC is not as easy. You have to give invoice they give you a cheque etc. and it is not as straight forward as the Bendigo. With e-banking it is so convenient. MRCCC do not do internet banking. So they can't just have an invoice and then they pay over the internet. Jeanne feels that the Bendigo Bank is still needed.

**Robyn:** Suggested that we keep the current bank accounts and don't just chuck everything out and start again. We just need to be really clear as a club, what the duties of every officer is. Robyn is the second person assigned for the internet banking and that provides the necessary protection of the actions of that account. Seems like a lot more work to do the cheque system through MRCCC. There is a double check as it is. Would like to propose an interim approach and not just change everything.

**Website discussion:** minutes will go directly onto the website in the future.

Discussion as to changes in the minutes mail-out.

**Sara:** Suggested that a group of us get together to set out descriptions of the duties of the proposed office bearers that will become available at our AGM in June. Athol, Sara, Erin, Pauline and Jeannie volunteered to help create those documents. Robin will email any suggestions to Pauline. The group will meet on Wed the 1<sup>st</sup> of May Museum coffee shop. 10am. Any other Valley Bees members are welcome to attend and contribute their expertise. The group will report at May meeting.

**Pauline: Easter Saturday:** Imbil event (street market) is being held over the Easter weekend, which will be run by the Chamber of Commerce. \$40 per stall. Phil will talk about that in his report.

### **VIC REPORT - Gympie Landcare First Saturday Session**

Last Saturday really good attendance. Spent a bit of time with the book. Checked on the brood chamber, referred to the book. Using the book is excellent because it is a reference to the people in attendance. Question that came up: How long does a drone live?? They had to refer to the book: from a few days to a few weeks. Discussed drones. Referred to what you find in Autumn in your hives. Bees closing in a bit of honey in the bottom box at sides for insulation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> hive had a little bit of uncapped and so they felt that they have a bit more than they need.

2<sup>nd</sup> hive the brood was full and all the hives were in good shape.

Young double hive had a lot of uncapped honey. Triple hive had a lot of brood but not a lot of uncapped honey.

Didn't take any honey from the hives but he brought in a couple frames to demonstrate how to extract.

One frame that only had one nail to hold frame together broke when he pulled it out and fell on his foot. Bill had a hard time spinning one frame that seemed like it had jelly bush honey in it. They discussed beekeeping coming into the cooler months.

**Robyn Native Bee Report.** Had the native bee workshop his morning. 11 people participated. All were very keen to get knowledge and that was really good. Theme was observation hives and the clear panels in stingless Austroplebia. Glenbo was photographing the queen and right then she laid an egg and the worker bees were covering it over. The discussion was around the clear panel at the top of observation hives that gets covered with cerumen and makes the "observation hive" not able to be observed. The hypothesis is that they may be covering it from the light or is it the type of material of the panel that they were trying to cover. Tim Heard is working on "Magic glass"...don't know what it really is yet. Fun to talk about. Experimental at this stage. Honeybee man came to the workshop and wants to get back into native bees. Peter Velenski is putting a dense piece of builders plastic to cover the top of the observation hive to protect from the light issue, maybe that will help solve the problem.

**Discussion of native bees in what trees. Discussion regarding native bees.**

### **MARK REPORT - Flow Hives**

Our Flow Hive at Landcare is still only in one box and he had to put some honey into it because all their honey was gone. About two months ago they took a few frames and they will leave it go for the moment. Only the brood box at the moment. Rebuilding after the slime out.

### **PHIL REPORT on Honeybee Farm Session**

**Valley Bees will not participate in the Imbil Easter festival.** Will just have the normal session at Honeybee Farm on the day. Pauline discussed the reason that the Imbil Easter festival will not go forward for the club. The cost became too much for a lot of local people and just became too complicated and not a good feel for the club.

Phil's observations: They have had lots of people stay here that have a great interest in bees. Everyone wants to talk about bees. Also the flow hive has really taken off. Incredible how good it is.

Other observation is that Kaye and Debbie took a swarm from Kandanga and put it down at the bottom of property and it was going well...then they went away for a couple of weeks and when they came back the bees were gone. Brian had the same experience and so did Howard and Sara. The bees gone, no sign of disease or anything.

The group discussed swarms at this time of the year, size of swarms, age of swarms and the fact that...they sometimes just don't stay around once put in a super.

The Honeybee Farm session is run on the third Saturday of every month, at the Honeybee Cottages Kandanga, starting at 9am in the warmer months, and 10am in some of the cooler months.

### **SCOTT REPORT - Top Bar hives**

One of his hives had beetle when the surrounding hives did not have the beetle. Put diatomaceous earth trap into the hive and caught about 50 beetles and now no sign of the beetle. No sign of the beetle in the other hives he has. Yesterday is the first time he has worked the hives by himself since his accident. He was delighted to take 35 kgs of honey from 5 hives. Still leaving plenty of honey for the bees.

Discussed issues with his top bar hive when the Brood seemed to be all through the hive and now seems to be sorting themselves out in that regard

Advantages of the top bar hive is that you can cut off the immature honey from the frame to collect the mature honey.

Two weeks ago had a massive swarm on his property. May have come out of the "Savage" hive. So he got box and some honey. Was so big that it would have to go into a full super. Scooped them in his hands into the box. They settled in and seemed calm. Thought it was really good and when he went back in the morning, the swarm was gone.

### **PAULINE ASKED FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CURRENT ISSUES:**

**ATHOL:** Discussed the Gympie Show. Show Society invited us to have a display of native bees at the show. Will need volunteers. 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Native bee display will be "Valley Bees" display. Honey bee display is sponsored by QBA.

Pauline noted that she still needs volunteers and Athol said he will volunteer for QBA on Thursday and Bill also volunteered.

**Wendalyn regarding the honey entries for the Show:** Last year they opened the on-line entry. Schedule is on the internet. [apiculture@gympieshow.com](mailto:apiculture@gympieshow.com)

The form comes out in an adobe file, so you have to print it out and the back must be filled out. Every entry has one number. Fill out each line with each entry. Try to get it in to her at the Showground office by the first week in May. Take **forms** to showground office as soon as you can. Take **entries** to the showground office on Tuesday. Jars will be left at the Showgrounds office this Thursday for entrants to pick up. Pauline will also bring some jars here to Honeybee Farm for members as well. Judging will be done on the Wed before the Show.

**BRUCE:** Discussed toads at the entrance of his hives. Entrances were completely covered with toads. Got 37 off his hives in 2 nights. Can use cloudy ammonia or Dettol to kill toads. Pauline described how the toads stack on top of each other to get to the hive entrance.

**PAULINE:** Where do we get the plastic containers for the honeycomb entries for the Show? Need to have the clear ones. Coles has them. She also asked about the judging sheets?? Wendalyn has the judging sheets. Glenbo has them on a computer stick. Pauline will get them from Glenbo.

**Singapore visit, on Wednesday after the last meeting: Vic:** It was a good day. Young people who work in Parks and Gardens. Interested in Native and Solitary Bees. Coincided with the Landcare discussion day. Shared practices and thoughts about native bees. They went home with a few ideas and were trying to encourage public to be interested in Native Bees. Tim Heard commented that Valley Bees was all they could talk about all the way back to Brisbane.

**BILL:** Why is mango in flower?? Jacaranda?? Many trees are flowering out of season this year and the group discussed.

**KAYE:** She got a correspondence from The Noosa Permaculture Group regarding a Festival they are holding on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June at the Cooroy Community Gardens. They would like a person to speak about bees and gardens. Robin said she would volunteer for that role to represent Valley Bees at that event. Thanks Robin.

**SCOTT:** Went to QLD museum in Brisbane. On second floor was a display on bees. Big panels that pull out and a large Perspex observation hive that had a plastic tube to the outside of the building for the bees to come and go through. Was fascinating. Second room was a dark room with scannings of microscopic photos of details of bees. Beautifully done as a work of art. The museum opened the exhibit for only 20 minutes a few times a day and they happened to arrive just a few moments before the 20 minutes of opening the hive. Also a large group of special needs children and other school children arrived at that same time. The place was packed with children watching the bees, asking questions and exclaiming with excitement. It was remarkable to see and to witness the interest of the young children. He would recommend that anyone in the group attend.

**PAULINE:** QBA conference is on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> of May. Field day the 1<sup>st</sup> of June at Bribie Island School. Conference at Golf club. Agenda will be posted on the web site. Speakers are finalized and will be posted soon. Maybe waiting on a confirmation.

**KAYLE:** Discussed the action of the government regarding: Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 Honey bee sites are supposed to be out of the forest. Government want QBA to do a study regarding bees in the forest. Don't want economics involved...Just the Science. Small timeline. Very time consuming. Doing quite a bit of research into the study. National forest is giving the beekeepers a hard time. Let QBA know when you are trying to book a site and are knocked back. Be persistent in documenting the site and that there ARE bee sites currently being occupied in the forest now.

**JEANNE:** Reported on the Open Day she and Eric attended at Currumbin held by the Gold Coast Amateur Bee Society last month. Enjoyable day. Approximately 600 through the gate. 43 CGABS members, 11 Ipswich, 4 VB members. Jeanne won the third prize for golden honey. "Congrats to Jeannie". Raffle was similar to what we have at our Open Day. They seem to have the same problems other groups have with volunteer participation. They take turns with Ipswich Bee Group to hold their Open Day every other year.

They made special thanks to Athol for the donation of 2 of his "Natures Gifts" book for their library. Eric and Jeannie took 6 of Athol's books and all were sold.

They also thanked VB for the free educational material supplied by Capilano.

A number of their members have visited our Open Days and thoroughly enjoyed everything.

Jeannie put forward the suggestion that we have our Open Bee day every other year.

**ATHOL:** Moved that we skip the Open Day this year and hold next year. **Sara 2nd. Passed by membership. So there will not be a Valley Bees Open Day this year. Someone from Valley Bees must inform the Imbil School ASAP.**

**BILL:** Went to Norfolk Island. The beekeepers here were all off island at that time but their wives said that the bees have been there for a very long time and the bees seem to be very aggressive. Only about 6 hives on the island. All boxes on the ground because no predators.

**Meeting closed:** fruit and veg box raffle drawn (won by Marj). Followed by afternoon tea, and Much-Bee-Banter.

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

**Note Valley Bees Bee Registration # V108**

**Our Committee:**

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