

Valley Bees August Meeting 11 August 2019 - #102

Opened meeting at 1.30pm. Minutes by Glenbo.
Apologies - Skaidra, Debbie, Kaye, Mark, Bill, Eric and Jeanne.
Welcome to new members David and Jay, Patty, Kay and Darren.
Minutes of last meeting read - no one had anything to comment.
Moved Kayle second Maree.
Treasurer's Report printed out. Read, and balanced.
Current balance \$6279-84
Moved Maree, Sara 2nd.

Minutes are now uploaded monthly to our website. We will still mail out printed versions of the Minutes. Currently there are 5 mail outs, if you wish to have the minutes printed and mailed to you, let us know.

Any business from minutes? None.

Discussion on joining the Australian Native Bee Association

We have read the rules and conditions for joining, and deemed that it might be too complicated to start up a native bee group, as the current situation with the MRCCC auspice is already adequate. Under MRCCC we are not audited. Any one can join the Native Bee Association, \$50 membership. Not sure how many clubs are starting up with the Association, but a few are.
<https://australiannativebee.org.au/join-us>

Top Bar Hive - Scott

Best designs by observation are the ones with thicker wood. Some hives can be made through the Men's Shed Pomona. Getting permission to use equip to build the hives. Scott just about ready to start building one / some for Valley Bees, hopefully one for each of our two club sites. Athol mentioned that a friend, Alf Blake, has a Top Bar Hive he has built, but has decided not to keep it. We decided that the hive was to be delivered to the Craigs, and we will look at the hive and make a decision. We need a demonstration hive/s, so as to be most effective. Scott mentioned that we could build 2 or 3 at once. Important to have best design available.

Scott article he recommended reading from Australasian Beekeeper magazine

<https://www.valleybees.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Plan-Bee-Tassie-honey-2019.pdf>

Open Day meeting

It was mentioned that on the Thursday there was supposed to be an Open Day meeting, but it was cancelled. Derek say the organisation looking at getting involved had the dates clashing, and they declined. Once that was done, there wasn't enough momentum to do the Open Day this year.

Vic Report on Landcare Session

Special thanks to Bill McIntosh, hives were moved from Landcare to Bill's property for 3 weeks, as the land care hives needed to be moved on site, and had to be taken away for 3 weeks to do this. The hives were brought back a few days before workshop. Erin had brought up about stands for working the hives. Vic - Des Bartle had the 2 stands made, one for Kandanga, one for Landcare, acknowledged his input. Report on Landcare last Saturday. Normal spot for session was full, so moved down to new shed, appreciated help from Landcare, they offer a really nice giving and helpful spirit. The attitude of everyone who comes along is always very positive. The sessions are getting bigger and bigger, 32 people last Saturday. Noted that we need to change 9am and 10am starters, so that all the Honeybee sessions throughout the year will start at 9am, from now on. Wired frames, went into bottom brood boxes, lifted up any honey frames into top super, out in foundation frames, giving extra frames for Queen to lay. If they bring in honey, they will draw them out. Plenty of capped honey in hives, took 8 frames out, extracted. Had a great morning.

Robyn Report on Gardening Morning (this morning)

Focus of today was gardening for bees, conditions have been a bit tough, with dry windy cold weather, solitary bees currently nowhere to be seen. Only saw one Great Carpenter. Noted that it was a fantastic event, many discussions on how to maintain a garden so well during periods without normal rainfall. Well done Robyn. Great chats and info sharing. 21 people attended.

Noted that better effort needs to be made to keep information on website calendar more accurate / up to date, so that people can utilise it more effectively. Sending email out with any changes not enough, as a number of people rely on the website calendar. Noted by Glenbo, and more effort in future.

Phil Report on Honeybee Farm Session

Phil echoed what Vic said about people who support the Saturday Session, wonderfully successful at Honeybee Farm as well. A good community feeling, good to have the sharing, the caring and the club assistance offered freely and generously.

The hives: #1 no SHB, very healthy / #2 #3 frames of honey, good / #5 lot of SHB, brood very healthy #06 had a problem previously / #7 problem hive

Noted that we have decreased our hives from 7 down to 4 hives currently.

We've got a problem with AFB, let neighbouring keepers with hives know.

Pauline noted that in a yard of 50 hives, may only have 2 or 3 amongst them with AFB or EFB, need to deal quickly with those hives. AFB discussion was held.

Moving the two large logs and hives

Stories told on the moving of the 2 log hives in large stumps, moved the large stump from Kandanga info centre and moved a large fresh blue gum from Yandina Creek - it was saved and trailered and moved to MRCCC site by Peter Velenski (thanks Peter) and placed in the Office grounds in Gympie.

Both logs and hives deemed spectacular, and a great community exercise. congrats to all.

Big thanks were offered to all those involved. Information Centre in Kandanga was very happy, as the street hedge was kept fully intact during the move, with truck and crane.

Derek

No report this month, as this morning's session was at Robyns.

Max Lindegger

Regarding AFB - when he takes honey, once a year he sends honey away to be tested 3 days before the extraction. Has his hives at Crystal Waters - last year all Blue gums flowering well, but this year no flowering from the Blue gums. Only very light frosts, cobblers pegs everywhere. Took only some honey off, giving queen extra space in brood box. At this time last year, had already done splits, but not this year. No drone brood yet, but not far off.

No swarm reports yet. Max reckons in 2 to 3 weeks we will start to have swarms.

Max brought along a new book – Honey From the Earth: Beekeeping and Honey Hunting on Six Continents

Eric Tournere & Sylla de Saint Pierre.

<https://horizontalhive.com/keeping-bees-with-a-smile/honey-from-the-earth.shtml>

General discussions

Discussion followed on Diane Leemon work she is doing on SHB

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/18-062.pdf>

Discussion on research being done on keeping the inside of the hives rough to evoke more propolis production.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329324331_Textured_Hive_Interiors_Increase_Honey_Bee_Hymenoptera_Apidae_Propolis-Hoarding_Behavior

Tom Codde Report on Ekka

Tom went down, number of honey entries very high this year. He and a few Valley Bees members entered honey.

In particular, noted that number of competitors was higher as well, not just all from the usual competitors.

Lady who went to enter last year knocked back because wrong coloured lids. Knocked back this year, wrong sized bottles. Story is: read the schedule carefully! Tom got 4th, congrats to Tom.

Imbil Show

Imbil show next Saturday. Any honey submitted by Friday morning 16th by 9am

500g round bottle with white metal or plastic lid. 2 jars, but 1 jar okay. 100 years of Imbil Show

White honey

White honey comes from white mangrove, or water lilly. Ivory curls produce very white honey, with a very mellow flavour.

Brian

Had a chat at Ekka with someone to do with judging. Pointed out that honey can be a bit "tired" - it loses aroma and finish after a while. Exhibited honey needs to be fresh. Must put new lids on jar - suggested that you put Gladwrap on your jar, with an old lid, then when you submit the jar, take off Gladwrap and place on clean new lid.

Scott

Film - The Pollinators, made in America, beautifully done, it has been offered for groups/people to show in their local towns. We could consider having a screening in Gympie as a fund raiser. Moved that we look into organising event.

Scott motion, 2nd Glenbo. Through Event Brite and Cinema.

Check out trailer - <https://au.demand.film/the-pollinators/>

Be Aware

While inspecting hives, melted hole through suit, be very careful with the bee suits and smokers.

Also, bee veil can burn very easily, be very wary. Plus be careful when stomping out the smoker at the end of a visit, the grass is very very dry. Phil said that somebody grabbed smoker, very very hot, and burnt. Also noted that the flame on the lighter doesn't always go out, even after releasing the button.

Leatherwood

Agriculture story coming out of Tasmania - fires and drought in Tassie worst in 80 years, generally they produce 600 tonnes every year. But Leatherwood has zero output this year, and 40 to 60% loss of hives. Article in latest beekeeping magazine.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-05/tasmanian-bushfires-burn-leatherwood-in-blow-to-honey-industry/10776606>

Athol

Back in the mid 90s asked to pollinate wax jambu (rose apple). Honey was very special, so he and Skaidra saved 3 jars - they won Champion in Gympie, Maryborough and Bundaberg, then went on to collect Grand Champion Honey at the Brisbane Ekka. This was the first time a "non-western" honey had won. Generally, the western honeys pick up the prize, the lighter, thicker honeys.

Bags

Suggested that bags be made up with info and goodies for new members, and for on the Open Day. Valley Bees cloth patches - make an effort to use them more. Plus suggested we do up an intro booklet for new members.

Vic

Standardise starting time for all the Saturday Honey Bee Sessions as 9am, for the whole year. No 10am starts - this has been confusing. Moved Erin, 2nd Lyn.

<https://www.valleybees.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/VALLEY-BEES-info-sheet.pdf>

Facebook

Suggested we have a group of people to be administrators for the FaceBook site.

Issues with old and new, sort out and streamline the Facebook.

Seek permission when signing in for workshops - "Your pictures may be used on our Facebook pages."

Blue Cards

Look at who holds Blue Cards - seek to get more members with Volunteer Blue Card for Working With Children.

It was noted that you need a separate Blue Card for each event. This needs to be looked into in more detail.

Suggested someone print out Blue Card forms for next meeting.

No more business.

Meeting declared closed 2-50pm.

Raffle

Then a Tom poem - The Beekeepers Wife. Thanks Tom.

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