

## Minutes to VB Meeting Sunday 13 October 2019 - #104

**Apologies** received from Pauline, Athol and Skaidra, Robyn, Scott, Tom, Howie, Debbie and Brian. Best wishes extended to Pauline for her health to improve.

**Website** - Apologies offered by Glenbo for the website which was down for about a week, it was an initial misunderstanding and then a technical hitch, but all up and running again.

**Name tags** - Glenbo suggested that anyone requiring a name tag, or a new version of their name tag, to contact him direct.

**Minutes from September meeting**, moved as read by Maree, 2nd Vic.

### **From Minutes:**

Facebook - Erin requesting administration rights, and has asked for access. Difficulty with with log-ins. It needs to be official VB faceBook site. Glenbo to call Kay and discuss. Will present to next meeting.

**Training for Epipen and First Aid** - Vic and Glenbo to be trained, and maybe Mark. First aid and anaphylaxis training. Print the First Aid booklet out - Vic. Read the book beforehand, then do course. Through Heartbeat Training. CPR and First Aid Certificate. Talked about Chemist - you can hop online, register as a volunteer with an organisation. Answer 20 questions, at the end, prints out a certificate. Anaphylaxis is easy as online and free at <https://anaphylaxis.ascia.org.au/index.php>

**Money transfer fund from Range Bees** - \$1769. Make up an account sheet. We work out how much we've spent, and make it clear what is still to be spent. Past expenses need to be clarified. Moved by Mark, 2nd Sara.

**Sunday 15th Nuplas Report** - Kane gave a presentation, plastic hives. Good for what they are. UV treated, no need to paint. Beetle tray. Most beekeepers have an aversion to plastic. These are guaranteed maintenance free, no paint, they say won't buckle, and no slip. Very good re: waterproof. Same weight as standard hives, not necessarily lighter. Price compatible. Can put together and use immediately. Made of recycled plastic, and can be recycled again. One hive was generously donated to the club from Nuplas. We look forward to testing it and observing. Group orders and individual orders can be made through the club. Noted that Kane possessed a very interesting curly moustache. Someone has adapted Nuplas honeybee hives for native bee homes.

**Gold Rush Festival this coming Saturday** Top Bar Hive through Scott and Ald Blake, solved, hive has been sold already, scott to continue with agreed work on creating Top bar hive.

**Gympie Central School** removal of bees in brick wall. Swarm removal from buildings not done by VB suggested Hinterland Bees.

**2nd Native Bee Conference** reminder, December 5th to 7th in Brisbane. Details in November. Erin and Glenbo registered (Glenbo as a volunteer for the 3 days).

**Request from Sunshine Coast Beekeepers** for info and photo of native tree removal and on-site move to MRCCC site (appeared as ABC news story).

**Grant** - VB applying for \$2400 grant from Gympie Regional Council, to assist with Bee Open Day 2020.

**Flow Hive Native Pollinator Kits** are available again, through the club. Get picture of Flow Hive Pollinator Kit, we purchased 2.

**Treasurer's Report** is on last page on these Minutes.

**Erin's Report** on the past year of VB, to present to MRCCC AGM, available on our website.

**Special meetings** - Suggested that dates for any meetings/special meetings - agreed to have all meetings, where possible, preceding our monthly general meetings, or agenda it to an agreed date and put on calendar.

**Landcare Festival** - Great day, bottleneck in setting up. Well attended until 2pm, then died away a bit. Honey tubs were done up by Vic and given away for free, took people by surprise. Most asked question was how to get native bees out of trees and stumps. Had observation boxes, and good display boards and information. Great day. There is an on-site shop now at Landcare - a great new asset.

**Bee Photo Frames** - Request from Erin regarding photos used in the Photo-Hive frames. Requests made from Australian Women in Beekeeping, Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers, and a few others. Glenbo said that the Photo Frames are owned outside of Valley Bees, and that work is being done on looking at a way of reproducing the Photo Frames, while still maintaining good clarity and quality. There are a few challenges in making the Photo Frames available at an affordable rate, as very time consuming and finicky producing them.

**Grant** - VB applied for \$2400. Letter of support Landcare Gympie and Sunny Coast Beekeepers.

**Saturday Honey Bee Workshops** - Our Saturday morning workshops are proving very successful and very very popular. Noted that new shed location on rear block at Landcare has no facilities except for the fridge, and we will need to look into this. Requires more work to set up and clean up. Need to provide everything but now have access to external power ie capping knife. Signage to shed – is it required? No chairs, no tables, no water, cups and spoons in a box in the shed in a locker.

**Treasurer's Report** passed around. Sara moved, 2nd Glenbo.

### **Report Landcare - Vic**

Last Saturday. A few less than normal, but still 29 attendees! People were welcomed, we then read from Athol's nature's gifts bee book what the seasonal management was for October. Beekeeping needs to be tied in with current seasonal conditions = very important.

Noted that this has been a shocking year for bees, no honey coming in, only in very small patches. Pot luck. Flying foxes seen in day time - they are starving, noted that many dead flying foxes seen in trees. Not a good sign for health of the environment.

There is a little purple pollen coming in (Jacaranda), and a little bit of honey coming in from the Silky oaks. Tallowood and Stringy bark also in flower, but almost finished.

Noted that on the Friday before our session, there was an issue with Landcare. It was thought that kids from the bee sessions were going into the Landcare "igloos." But kids that come to the sessions have always their veils on, and are with parents all the time. Igloos are used for breeding bugs for the Cat's claw and Madeira vine. Little safety chain broken. Noted that we don't have any permission to go on any other Landcare property, other than the bee site. Vic saw and spoke to Shane, all good.

**Started 3 nucs** before, 2 with Queen, 3rd with a bred Queen. Reg found some more Queen cells, started a 4th nuc hive. All hives healthy, but very little honey coming in. Pinched 2 frames on the day to demonstrate uncapping and extracting. Great morning, everyone got a pot of honey to take home.

### **Landcare Family Day.**

Vic requested to do a kids presentation, all ready, but no kids turned up.

Other presenters wanted to hear stories, so a great session was still had.

**There have been 20 nucs ordered** through the Landcare sessions. Purchased Queens through Denmark Apiaries. Had to put honey frames into some of the nucs to strengthen.

**Macadamias this season** - almost no honey at all, very poor return.

**Peter and Sandy Wood** have had 2 hives for 10 months, still only single boxes, foundation frames have remained as foundation for the whole year.

**Recommended** that we supply an extra frame of honey with nuc hives being sold.

Peter and Sandy have a project - a few hundred meters from their home is a big old Stringy bark tree, two meters up is a honeybee hive. Challenge: how to get a hive off it. They have made a stand to attach to the tree, and a special 5 frame nuc box to suit. Connected entrance of hive with poly hose to back of nuc. The box is 'humming' so we'll get a report on that story next month, good luck with the progression.

**Lemongrass** - Suggested: to put a bit of lemongrass oil on a cotton bud, and wipe around inside the nuc box, and lemongrass oil has the closest pheromone to the Queen. Requested that Peter and Sandy get a photo of it to share.

**Bees eating honey stores** - Noted that when bees are eating the stores of honey, the capped cells stop abruptly against empty cells. The bees eating the honey will open one at a time, this is an indication that the stores in the hive are being consumed, and to be careful with how much honey you take. If new honey is coming in, the cells adjacent to the capped cells will have varying / progressive amounts of uncapped honey.

**Rob Mallett** - Has been splitting native bees in Kingaroy, but drawn right back, native bees also are drawing on their stores.

### **Honeybee Gardens Report - Phil**

Hives healthy. We seem to have beaten AFB - great news. Good turnout, 2 lots new people, 2 new kids, all very keen. 4 hives at moment, 1st hive plenty of drones. Evidence of freshly hatched queen cells, no eggs no brood. 3rd hive - loads of SHB. No uncapped honey (i.e. no honey coming in). Pollen starting to come in - Jacaranda. Noted that bees also get pollen from fallen flower of the Jacaranda.

### **Flow Hive Report - Mark**

Okay down in brood box, but nothing at all upstairs in honey super. Little kid came in and found the Queen. Lid is dry rotted after 2 years. Slash pine not hoop pine, under repair. No swarming at moment.

### **Two Queens in One Hive**

Noted that 2 queens in one hive, upstairs and downstairs.

**Glenbo** produced photos of 2 Queens on the one side of a frame, the new healthy large Queen, and next to it the older smaller Queen. This can happen when the old Queen is superseded, and the old Queen is allowed by the hive to stay on. Rare to see on same side of frame.

**Vic and Derek** had a few stories about finding a Queen walking around on the ground, well away from the hives. Also a Queen was found walking around on a blue tarp. Unusual stories.

### **Native Bees Report - Derek**

Bee morning before next meeting in November. Hope to do a split at Chris and Sheila Kath's place, but if no more rain, we will have to do a transfer, not a split. Still to be held at 2 properties, also an education.

**Native Bee morning 10<sup>th</sup> November. Map (on last page of Minutes)** to the sites of the native bee morning on the 10th November. Start at 88 Amamoor Dagon Road at 10am for a transfer or hive split depending on hive & weather conditions. There will be a sign on the road. Then on to 447 Kandanga Amamoor Rd to see a hive induction and morning tea / lunch. Finish in time for meeting at Kandanga.

**Blue Banded Bees** - Under house, noted Blue banded bees, full of holes. Best soil was always thought to be 2 parts clay, 3 parts sand, or similar, but by the feedback we have been getting, this formula has been thrown out the door. This active site is in shale (dry and hard) and we can't quite work out how they dig the holes! Glenbo also told story of site at Ross Creek, where an excavated side of a work shed is covered in holes, and absolutely full of Blue banded, Resin, Neon cuckoo, and other species, such a

successful site that Glenbo sent soil sample to USC for testing: zero clay, zero sand. It was an old cow yard, and decades of compressed cow-yard soil. Interesting. Blue banded go into the ground, and branch out into numerous nesting tunnels.

## General Business

**Bee Open Day Meeting** - Meeting this morning re: Bee Open Day 2020. Steering committee set up to get things started and progressed, mainly Erin and Glenbo at this early stage. Info reported back into General meetings. Erin moved, 2nd Vic.

**Date proposed is Saturday 5th September.** Discussion held on venue for 2020. If we are moving site away from Imbil, it was suggested that we clearly indicate that we are "bringing Imbil and Kandanga with us" - i.e. offering first option to the Imbil school / Mary Valley college to run the canteen / food. This will be discussed further. Looked at hiring Pavillion, Gympie Showgrounds. \$200 deposit, total hire \$1150. Proposed that this cost will be covered in the Grant application. The Pavilion site, has tables and chairs onsite, easy access, we can access the Pavillion Friday afternoon for set-up. Barriers are available, We have all the upstairs areas for meetings and mini workshops. Display boards are available onsite. Contact is Ross Paddington. We also have access to the outdoor strip of ground between the Pavilion and the Racetrack, for outdoor and larger displays.

**Suggested having 2 native hives** in raffle, one drawn in morning, one in afternoon, and have "staggered draws" for the raffle, maybe have the donated raffle prizes at the stand of each of the exhibitors, and draw the raffle progressively at the stands. Similar to how they do it at QBA days. Have a lucky gate ticket prize, to give incentive for all to pay the entrance fee. Lifts are there, for access to the upstairs area, good parking, good disabilities access.

**On the same weekend** (of 5th and 6th September) there are a couple of other local events which run for the 2 days - Cooloola Farm Trails, and Going Off the Grid Festival Imbil 4th, 5th and 6th September 2020. Suggested: we produce a separate PDF flyer, that promotes all three events together. We also produce our own flyer of course, but good to also promote all 3 events together on a separate flyer. Glenbo will pursue this further. Erin moved, Mark 2nd

**Grant Timing** - 22/24 October, we will know of the success for Grant application.

**Noted:** that at Imbil, the school was given \$1200 year before, and \$900 last year.

**Suggested:** Members to research any new display people or speakers we can have.

**Nelson Park** - RSL 100 Year Celebration Sunday 17 November 11am to 7pm Nelson Reserve. We have been asked by Landcare, who want to share a space with us. Any volunteers?

**Next Saturday after Honeybee Farm** will be the big afternoon Gold Rush event at the Duckponds. Valley Bees to have a 3m x 3m gazebo display. Be there from 2 to 5-30pm - as an info group. Vic, Sara, Reg and Marj, Mark and Maree, Glenbo to assist with display boards / posters. Old wares and the old ways on display, plus Goldrush parade. Bring lantana and reeds and bamboo offcuts for solitary bees.

**Nuplas with Kaine O'Connell** 10% discount offered to members on excluders, gloves, veils, frames etc. Let us know within a week for orders. Their details are : kaine.oconnell@nuplasgroup.com.au  
[www.nuplasgroup.com.au](http://www.nuplasgroup.com.au)

**Xmas breakup** - suggested to have it here at Honeybee Farm, or alternately maybe at the Strawberry Farm at Cooloola, Tigargan Road. It was put to the vote, and decided to have it here at the honeybee Farm on the 8th December, after the monthly meeting. Details to be discussed at November meeting. BBQ. Phil announced that he and Debbie (and Andrew) will be moving on from the Honeybee farm by the end of the year. sad to see them go, and it was acknowledged their wonderful support and input towards the days we hold there. This was another reason to hold the Xmas event at the farm as it acts as a thank you and farewell to the three of them.

VB have been talking to Alan Rainbow, the owner, he very much has enjoyed our events and presence, and wants to see it continue.

### **MRCCC AGM**

Being held on 16 October at 9am. Albert Bowls Club. Erin attending, they would like VB to attend.

**New members** - 1 new.

**Motion on Signatories** - Motion to change names to current executive and remove old names on bank account. Change names on bank accounts and remove old names. 8 names on accounts currently, we only should have 3 names. Bendigo Bank requested change of name signature. Maree, with 2nd signature Robyn, and 3rd signature Sara. Voted to stay with Bendigo account, as it works. Moved Glenbo, 2nd Merv.

**Questions** - how to make frames etc with Flow hives. People can bring along bee frames to any of the workshops, and you can get frames wired and framed at workshops. We get a lot of inquiries to buy foundation through the club. Mostly the foundation is used for the club, but can get through the club for members to purchase.

### **Sara and sealing of honey jars**

Trying to let people moving from plastic jars to glass jars. Putting lid on, no indicator with glass jars that jar is sealed, there is sealed lid on plastic jars. Glenbo to ask Pauline. As soon as you strain honey, it is classified as a "processed food" and needs "proper procedure." For selling honey, you need to be licensed. Honey needs to be packed in a council-approved set-up, \$700 license a year to sell honey. Take honey to commercial kitchen and pay rent.

### **Question: Do snakes eat bees?**

Quite a few snakes, goannas do eat bees, water dragons, cane toads, out there one night black snake back and forth to hive repeat. Suggested that Glenbo phone Trevor Weatherhead.

**Varroa mite** lays egg on top of larvae. 1st egg always male, all remaining all female, mates, then hop on bees as they leave

### **Close of meeting 3-25pm.**

**Raffle** - Erin won a **Nature's Gifts** bee book, Shirley won copy of **When We Were Young** book.

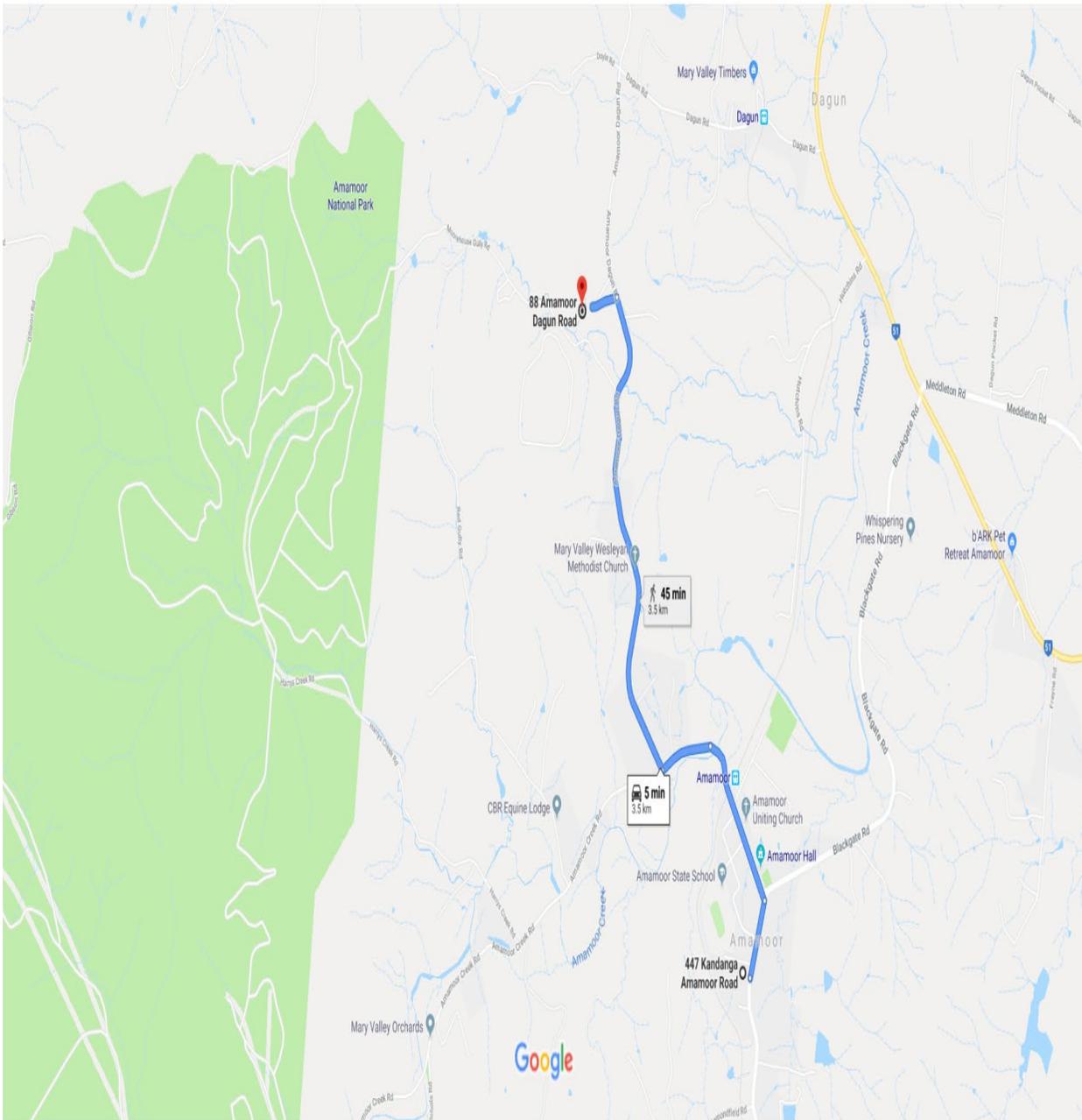
**See MAP to Native Bee Morning of 10<sup>th</sup> November, and Treasurer's Report, on following 2 pages.**

SEPT 2019

TREASURERS REPORT - VALLEY BEES --DATE 13/10/19	
MEETING HELD --	
<b>MRCCC Acct</b>	Total
Balance Last Meeting	1784.52
Deposits	
Membership	
Withdrawals	
Reimburse Expenses	
Current Balance	1784.52
<b>Bendigo Acct</b>	Total
Balance Last Meeting	3383.15
Deposits	
Meeting Entry Fees	\$ 52.00
Posters	
Books	\$ 115.00
Apiuthor Sales	\$ 6.00
Apis Beetle Traps	
Membership	\$ 30.00
Misc	
Total Dep.	\$ 203.00
Withdrawals/Payments	
Raffle	\$ 15.00
Honey Bee Hire	
Petty Cash	\$ 158.80
Eppi Pens	\$ 173.80
Total WD	\$ 173.80
CURRENT BALANCE	3412.35
MRCCC Total	1784.52
Bendigo Total	3412.35
<del>Grand</del> Total	5196.87
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00
Grand Total	5296.87

Google Maps 447 Kandanga Amamoor Road, Amamoor QLD to 88 Amamoor Dagon Rd, Amamoor QLD 4570

Drive 3.5 km, 5 min



Map data ©2019 200 m



via Amamoor Dagon Rd

5 min

Fastest route

3.5 km