

Meeting Valley Bees 14 March 2021

Meeting started 1.30pm. Sara welcomed everyone.

Apologies Erin, Pauline, Howie, Vic, Athol, Glenbo, Reg and Marj, Tom C

Minutes of previous minutes on website.

Business from minutes.

Lyn C reports that website is better, easier to use.

Lyn m, Maree s, arrived that minutes from previous meeting are accurate.

Correspondence.

Via Maree.

Natasha from Curra, bees in her roof cavity. Referred to Mick and Dana.

Phil from Jones Hill wants bees for pumpkin propagation. Referred to Reg.

Tracey playgroup from Goomboorian. Wants to buy native bee hives. Referred to Bill.

Deb Frampton Gympie Show sponsorship \$30 request. Bruce m, Mark s. Carried.

Via Erin.

Erin sent message about VB presence at the show. Robyn to set up native bee display on Wednesday of the show.

Workers for QBA stall to let Kayle know, but this is not urgent yet.

Tim Heard has offered to attend open day. Erin to accept his offer and get back to Tim in June.

COVID update for outdoor events.

Can members start to think about volunteering at Bee Open Day in September and Quilt Show, Rare Trades in October.

Bill m, Dana s that inward correspondence be received. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Bendigo account 4642.99

MRCCC account 2617.00

Petty cash 100.00

Total 7359.99

Maree moved treasurer's report be accepted. Len seconded. Carried.

General business

Solitary bees - Robyn. No news.

Landcare report - Dana. 40+ participants. New queens, honey flow slowing. Vic thanks VB members for contributing to these workshops. Participants urged to make sure their questions were answered.

Discussion about success with queen cells. Lots of variables eg wind, predators, drone layers.

Kayle has about 90% success rate but has had as low as 40%.

Kayle - requeening with Demaree box

Kayle - honey bees in Demarees in almond orchards.

Honey bee cottages - Mark. 23 participants. Building hives back up to six. One queen is injured so even though she's laying, she'll have to be removed. Vic might need reimbursing for queen cells.

Flow hive - Mark. Honeybee Cottage. Spun some honey to show some of the newcomers with flow hives. New queen cells into formerly cranky Landcare hive. Ideal box working well on top of Flow.

Sara about empty Flow Hive at Eumundi. Plastic is black. Can be cleaned with sugar soap and pressure cleaners inside and out. Wear a mask because it could be dangerous fungus.

Native bees - Bill. Landcare hives are full which could be split after winter for sale or raffle. Water metre rescues failed except for one.

Top Bar Hives - Scott away today

General business

Maree. Honeybee cottages have been sold to NDIS, settling in May. NDIS happy for us to stay, and keep up the shed. Erin to contact Alan or NDIS to seek clarification about the shed.

Sara. Honeybee hive at Eumundi that's been neglected. Lots of burr comb. Gentle bees perhaps because they've not seen people for three years. Before taking honey, make sure there is a honey flow for the bees to replace their stores.

Sara. Friend looking to buy a hive. 'The Firm' (Reg) may have one.

Sara. Hives have pollen but not much honey. No nectar. Feed with sugar before population dwindles.

Bill. No Landcare workshop on Easter weekend, move to week after.

Derek. Vic's brother is very ill and Vic is spending a lot of time with him.

Derek. Swarm in macadamia tree. Dana boxed the bees but they returned to tree. Saw three queens behaving strangely, two queens out in the open.

Raffle. Meeting ended 3pm.