

# Valley Bees Meeting and AGM

## Sunday 13 June 2021

Commenced 1pm.

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### 1. Discussion of Bee Open Day 2021

#### **Covid Code**

Last year's still applies - What we have to do hasn't changed. Suggested we get our own scanning number and have several posters along fence. We are required to count all people coming in and out, we will get hold of 2 hand counters. In the Pavillon Hall we are allowed 600 people - 1 person per 2 square meters. We simply need to show clearly that we are Covid Compliant.

**VB Covid Plan** must be signed off - two Plans are required, one from the Show Society (to be submitted no less than 20 days before) and a separate plan submitted to Council (10 days before).

**Cleaning** needs to be done hourly. First Aid station. Vendors must have wash stations on their stalls and will have own Covid Plan.

**Basic training.** Before the day, VB will need to train volunteers - What we should and shouldn't do. We will draw up a site plan.

**Food in hall.** Masons doing food in the hall, Lions Club are being approached.

**Bee Open Day.** Motion put to go ahead and run the Bee Open Day for 2021. Motion by Maree, 2nd Reg. Hands shown, motion passed.

**The day will progress! To be held Saturday September 4th 2021 in the Gympie Showground Pavilion.**

**Vendor list** to be supplied by Glenbo, Shakya will link details in with VB website. Glenbo will make initial email (or phone) contact with all vendors, and pass this over to a VB contact to pursue.

**The main job**, the overseer, has been accepted by Maree, she will oversee the event. We decided to call her the "Puller Togetherer." Yes, that's now a legitimate position, 'cus we say so!

**In charge of Presentations / Speakers / Workshops** - Dana, with speaker and presenter information fed through to her from Glenbo.

**Food vendors** will be independent and outside the Pavillion. Coffee caravan.

**Talks and Presentations** upstairs in Pavillion, many rooms available.

One room set aside for Microphoned / Powerpoint talks, held every hour on the hour. 25 minute presentation, followed by 15 minute discussion.

2 or 3 "Round Table" conversational rooms can be set up upstairs as well, for smaller / more relaxed discussions.

**Entry.** Proposed \$5 entry fee, to cover for not having as many raffles this year. Motion Maree, 2nd, Approved by show of hands. Entry to pay, and to count, will be single entry point into Pavilion building. Gate Keeper - Robyn.

**Wrist bands** to be given on admission or stamped. To be followed up on - Maree.

**Hive Central** set up again (perhaps on stage, or centre of floor).

**Times.** Decided 9am until 2pm with talks and main events, with 2pm to 4pm conversational. Close 4pm.

**Sponsor acknowledgements** throughout the hall. Sponsors names up on website and Facebook. We will show good support of the generosity of the sponsors.

**Eftpos** on entry, no ATM on site. We will indicate nearest ATM.

**PR** - As a part of the key group, we will need someone in charge of PR. To keep in liaison with Shakya. (Gympie Living magazine) tackled by Glenbo, who already his doing work on this). Will try and get a few more bee cover shots and will do content articles for July and August editions. Gympie Today, Mary Valley Voice, Kandanga Rag. Plenty of online options.

**Vendors cost** - if selling products - \$50. If Community organisation, or an information display - FOC.

**Raffle.**

x 2 native beehives.

Entry fee of \$5 will include a free ticket into a native hive draw. Separate tickets can be sold inside for \$5. Tickets only sold on day and drawn on day. Club can supply 2 native beehives on the day. Tim Heard - Glenbo to follow up on a donation of a native beehive from Tim, as per his generosity on previous years.

**Next Open Day meeting** to be held on July 11th, 1pm, before the general meeting.

**Pavillion** available on Friday 3rd from 4pm - see if we can access earlier than 4pm to drop off stuff.

**Extra single lucky door prize** considered - bee books, bee gear etc. But voted to keep this aspect very simple.

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**2. 2021 AGM.**

**Commenced 1-45pm.**

**Apologies** from Wayne Smith, Tom Codde and Athol Craig. Also, Max Lindegger and Jo Funnell.

**Chair Erin** gave a talk - Club very successful with outside activities over last 12 months. Outdoor workshops have catered for 300 to 400 people in last 12 months. Decrease in meeting attendances, sometimes down to 9 or 10 members. This will be

addressed in future. VB main purpose is in education, and very successful with workshop days.

**Thanks** to all workshop supervisors, and to Maree as Treasurer.

**Thanks to MRCCC** for continued support, to **Gympie Landcare** as an organisation we support, and they support us. We have seen two changes of management at Honeybee Farm, now called Honeybee Wellness Resort.

**Jan Watt** came in before the meeting and gave the club a wonderful introduction, she will be in charge of new management. Fantastic and inspiring motivation shown by new management, and they are very willing and supportive of the bees, and they have big plans for the venue. But the most exciting is that they are fully supportive and enthusiastic towards the bees.

**Finances.** Maree presented, \$7893-69 total, details in separate sheet attached.

**Solitary bee fund** - Motion that \$500 still outstanding from original solitary bee funds. Motion put to approach Professor Peter Brooks at USC by Glenbo. Noted that \$1000 also donated by VB to QBA for Bushfire Fund.

**Derek** - Moved a motion for appreciation of all committee.

**All positions vacated.**

**Treasurer / Secretary** - Maree Hannon nominated by Mark, Derek 2nd. All in favour. Accepted.

**Minutes Taker** - Robyn Bowman nominated by Mark, 2nd Dana. All in favour. Accepted.

**Chairperson** - Mark nominated Dana Heslin, 2nd by Vic and Reg! All in favour. Accepted.

**Vice Chair** - Robyn nominated Pauline in her absence, Mark 2nd. Accepted on her behalf as she had indicated her willingness for this position.

**Athol Craig's** ongoing role and input as Patron acknowledged by Glenbo.

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## **June General Meeting**

### **Commenced 2:10pm**

**Dana** takes over as Chairperson and welcomed. We look forward to hearing more from Dana, who has been with the Club for 18 months. Maree Treasurer. Glenbo Minutes taker.

**Apologies**, as above.

**Minutes** from May read. Moved by Erin, 2nd Shakya.

New owners acknowledged, new site managers Brendan and Lachlan

acknowledged.

Does Honeybee have EpiPen - yes. VB also has their own EpiPen.

**Treasurers Report.** Maree - May one new member. Financial details see attached.

\$99 petty cash

And \$1 on debit card. Maree moved Treasurers Report be accepted. 2nd Bill.

## **General Business**

**Maree** asked that all workshop supervisors are happy to continue.

**Vic** - yep to Landcare.

**Mark** - yep to Honeybee Farm.

**Bill** - yep to Native Bees.

**Robyn** - yep to assist with Solitaries.

## **Shakya - Off-Grid Lifestyle Expo**

There will be an Off Grid Expo on 11th and 12th September at Imbil Showgrounds.

1st Off Grid Lifestyle Expo in region.

<https://www.offgridexpo.com.au>

Everyone has asked whether bee people will be there. People asking to buy gear, so Shakya asking us for first option. Dan from Century 21 has kindly offered to pay for cost of site. Other bee vendors can be approached. It's a full on 2 days, lots of camping. 4m x 4m site is available. Shakya noted that everybody is after bees. Maybe also have a Membership Drive at event, sell our books etc. Mark will follow up on this.

## **Glenbo - Stingless Bee Honey Book**

Glenbo has been assisting Dean Haley to produce his brand new book on Stingless Bee Honey, it has now come back from the printers and will be launched very soon.

Glenbo will have the books at the August meeting. Dean has put together a magnificent publication on all aspects of this new and popular product, but much has to be learnt about it. Motion that club buys book - Erin. 2nd Glenbo.

## **Robyn - Gympie Show Report**

Valley Bees had a good nook on the stage area, QBA ran the event. The people/members that pulled together were a great group. And noting that the QBA were very open minded to the Valley Bees presence. The whole event was easy from the get-go, used photos/posters from Glenbo, had a solitary bee display. Vic, Derek and Peter stole the show with native bee observation hives. Originally it was from 10 to 2, with one hive on one day. Turned out many hives, many hours, on all days, incredible interaction, a number of lost voices. Robyn declared she was humbled by their commitment.

Noted that Austroplebia hives have a better display value, clearer to see brood, and more opportunity to see the Queen moving about and showing off.

Applause offered to the show volunteers.

**Erin** - Noted: people on ladders - please observe the regulations. Must have 3 points of contact.

**11th September** - There is an event at the Brewery Gardens near Nestles. (Not sure on the details of this).

## **Vic - Landcare Saturday Report**

Last Saturday 5 June. People slow arriving - cold morning. By the time we started we had 25 people. 25 in a crowd a good workable number for two supervisors opening the hives. Over 40 is hard to manage.

It was a good day. Talked about wintering hives, what we need to do to keep bees healthy, it's the quietest time of year. Good time to do maintenance and building.

Leaving ample honey in hive for now.

It's this time of year that the Queen can get through excluders into top honey super - smaller size. Her egg chamber shrinks in winter. Lots of phone calls coming in with Queens above excluders.

Moved down to hives - good. Last month's two cranky hives that were requeened, quieter now. And classic hives, with no bridging. Next hive was not requeened and had lots of bridge comb. So, breed from queen from hive that has less bridging.

Honey coming in well, but Flow Hive slow on honey incoming. No diseases in hives, so swapping frames around between hives to strengthen.

There is an ideal box on each of hives now, decided to keep them on, and take out the full honey frames. No stores yet in ideal on Flow Hive.

Flowering: Spotted gums are yielding nectar, but still not a lot. Very few Small Hive Beetles.

Vic acknowledge all VB workers that turn up and support the morning. In particular, Bill, Reg, Marg, Maree, Mark and Dana. Wouldn't happen without them. Applause. Big thanks to offered to Vic. More applause.

### **Mark - Honeybee Farm Saturday Report**

Noted that very similar to Landcare report. Not much coming in, but all hives in good condition.

Hives #5 and #6 may need feeding, bit light on in supplies. Others are strong, so may be able to swap frames around at next event.

No frames taken out for spinning, so moved up to honey room. Made frames, wired and waxed. Noted in winter get hives and frames together.

Wasn't a very long day, but a good day. 18 people attended.

Beetle - one hive had a few more. Bill said on the day he vacuumed out 200 beetles! *(Note: He must have purchased that new-fangled Beetle Counter advertised online through Acme - Ed.)*

More beetle here than at Landcare. Flow Hive not doing much, so put an ideal box on top.

### **Bill - Native Bee Report**

Bill went missing for a few weeks, and noted that on the 17th, someone had moved one of the education hives and taken out the pipe connecting them. Can't understand.

First hive that Derek had hooked up (green) has good brood built up, so we can sell or give away at upcoming events. The big box that the club had brought, sadly died out. Had swarmed, maybe didn't requeen successfully. In February - very hot days, maybe hive cooked in those big hot days. Lost one at home also.

We have 2 boxes that we can give away or sell.

In Spring we will have another bee morning, to check honey box supers put on top of log hives.

The 2 bigger boxes going well.

### **Robyn - Bee Hotels**

Maree is now a part owner of a bee hotel, looking forward to coming year to observe building up. Dormant at moment. No activity until after 10-30 when it's warm enough. Working out interaction between native bees and honeybees - working out fine by

the looks of it. Noted that there is talk on them not interacting, but group agreed that in a well-managed and balanced environment, all bees, honey, native and solitary, seem to work it out. Just keep observing and keep adding to the balance. The bees are loving the nasturtiums at moment.

### **Vic**

Noted that Australis bees block up their entrance every night with a wax barrier. On cold days they don't undo entrance (become active) until after lunch. (*Note: like many of our Members- Ha! - Ed*).

Depends on sun hitting directly the entrance. Top insulation on stingless beehives can take off during the day to get extra sun warmth, then put cover back on mid afternoon.

### **Maree and Derek and Dana**

Went to Kandanga store to check out the purple entrances put in the front of hives that check for varroa. Derek got a bit of info on these, wondering if they check on SHB as well. Will they detect and count beetles coming in? Set a threshold at say 20 beetles, special device then notifies you on phone if more than 20. Needs looking into. No idea yet of cost.

### **Erin**

Noted that one American beekeeper has 80,000 hives. Three generations. Noted that a lot of hives are stolen over there, big issue.

### **Backyard hives**

Noted that down south (NSW and Vic) it's easier to get a backyard hive - you can buy packages readily and have them delivered in the mail. Here there is a big demand for bees - people wanting the whole package.

### **Shakya**

Maybe put on website. Buy complete hive. Let people know VB can help in setting up. Let newbees know we are the first place to come to, and that we help them on-going.

Let people know about seasonality of native bees as well.

Shakya is observing website, what people are viewing. Put simple info on website of exactly what we can offer, make it clear and easy.

Shakya noted that people are buying on-line, but a relatively high percentage of rubbish hives. Coming to VB to fix up.

### **New wording on website**

Vic and others to come up with accurate wording, to pass on to Shakya to put on website. The key is, to initially get people to come to meeting - number one! So that they can resolve issues face-to-face, much more efficient.

### **Raffle drawn, won by Marj.**

**Meeting closed 3pm.**

**Tea Time!!!!**