



Beekeepers Society of South Australia Inc.

Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc. (BSSA)

Minutes #85

General Meeting

Monday the 11th October 2021 Burnside

Community Hall

401 Greenhill Rd, Tusmore

(Corner Greenhill Road and Portrush, look for car park along Portrush Road)

7.30pm – 9.30pm

'Beginners' Session presented by **John Silverblade and Ulrich Schade**, with **Adrian Makarowsky**, will commence at **6.30pm – 7.30pm.**

'Intermediate' Beekeeping presented by **Roy Frisby-Smith and Grant Gotley**, with **Phil De Coursey**, will commence at **6.30pm – 7.30pm.**

- 1. 1930: Welcome and Apologies:** Reminder to please provide name and details for our sign in sheets, please scan the QR code and remember social distancing.
- 2. Meeting opened at 7.30pm.**
- 3. Apologies:** Richard Martin, Frank Avriero, Margaret Cowley, Rossi von der Borch.
- 4. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes 13th September 2021**
Mover: Adrian Makarowsky Seconder: Jim Davidson **Accepted**
- 5. President's Report: Susan Lonie**
A call out for volunteers for Sophie Thomson's open garden 6th – 8th November

Mentioned that a women has a few empty hives up for sale as her beekeeping husband has passed away.
- 6. Secretary's report: Trisha Blanks** is still away.
- 7. Librarian's report:** Sue Speck to present Library updates on new books.
Biodynamic Beekeeping & The Art of the Bee
If there are any requests for other books for the library please seek out the librarian.

8. An update on Beginners and Intermediate classes: Adrian Makarowsky

The BSSA provide these classes to promote and share responsible beekeeping practices. Classes are booking out quite early due to limited numbers. Non-members are welcome to come to a few sessions. However, due to popularity and to prioritise members, the bookings will open for members to book earlier than non-members. Non-members booking are open approximately one week before.

9. New business:

Update on the call for volunteers: Adrian Markarowsky

We have 2 people who have volunteered to become trainers for future classes.

Thank you to those who have offered up to become volunteers. We will be in contact with you.

10. Adrian Markarowsky asked the members some questions regarding future classes

Who would like a workshop on bee equipment building? 20 were interested

Mead making: 12 interested

Melting wax and making foundation: 16 interested

Pollen collection and propolis: 9 interested

Honey judging: 6 interested

Other topics suggested were pollen patties and wiring up of frames.

11. Adrian Markarowsky gave an update on BSSA initiative: Pairing experienced and new beekeepers

Thank you to the experienced beekeepers that helped. There were 20 pairings last year. About 4 people who wanted a mentor couldn't get one. Received feedback from 16 people. Most had a positive experience. 7 people still looking for a mentor. There is a demand for more female experienced beekeepers to step up as mentors.

12. BSSA Initiative: Kangaroo Island update from Trevor Greenfield

Efforts have been greatly appreciated by KI beekeepers. Approximately half of KI was burnt and two thirds of national parks burnt. A lot of beekeepers overwintered their bees in national parks nearby and one third of the hives were lost. 95% of blue gums were burnt out and the island is still taking a long time to recover. About 15 commercial beekeepers on KI. 5 most directly affected. 35 members have gone over; 6 have volunteered multiple times. Major building and recovery occurred in 2020 and has been ongoing in 2021. 'KI Build a Box Project' received some funding from the government. The project managed to come under budget for what BSSA offered. There is no more funding but volunteers are welcome to go and see results.

13. Quick Poll: Christmas Dinner: Susan Lonie asked - Who wants to eat? Who wants to help?

20 or so people were interested in Christmas dinner

A handful of volunteers

14. Guest Speaker: Danny Le Feuvre spoke about commercial beekeeping and Australian bee services. Amongst many of his commitments he is involved in honey harvesting and pollination services. He spoke about;

Honey levies

\$1 per hive contribution goes towards state hive levy. Fund is managed by minister. Funds are used for state biosecurity officer. \$40,000 from this levy for BBO (bee biosecurity officer)

DAWE 4.6cents per kilo in you produce over 1500 kilos

Packers pay on behalf of that honey

2.7 cents emergency plant pest response

1.5 cents Research and development

0.3 cents National residue testing

0.1 cents Plant health Australia (manage bee biosecurity program)

AFB e-nose

A 'Breathalyser' run by CRC that smells AFB with tech. AFB is the biggest disease problem in beekeeping industry. Hive and equipment must be irradiated or burnt to get rid of it. The breathalyser might be available commercially in a year or two and will help the bee industry immensely in detecting this devastating disease.

Medicinal honey

Refers to peroxide activity – kills bacteria and can promote healing on wounds. Examples of such are Jarrah in Western Australia. or Leatherwood in Tasmania. Non-Peroxide activity is Manuka honey.

NSW Apiarists Association

- Honey project for medicinal honey
- Aim to determine the chemical composition of Australian honey.
- Work towards understanding Australian honey and the authenticity of Australian honey
- Will establish methodology for fructose, glucose and sucrose content, moisture, electrical conductivity, free acid, diastase number (enzyme activity) and HMF.

B Qual

- Honey library to keep tested honey all in one spot

CRC Honeybee Products

- Total activity (both peroxide and non-peroxide)

Plan Bee – genetic improvement program

Queen bees from all over the country are flown to NSW to put in apiaries to compare queens, their offspring and their performances against each other in different bee related activities.

This is to establish Estimated breeding values (EBV); measuring and assessing performance to standardise bee quality.

Pedigree or genetic testing

Colony evaluations

15. Strictly Beekeeping:

Ullrich Schade spoke about hive location for summer providing shade and clean water with some form of landing pad to mitigate the risk of drowning. As it is swarming season some recommendations for reducing this are:

- Double brood box
- Using different methods for splitting
- Replace frames that are 3 years old
- Check for large amounts of drone cells

Wax moth alert; suggestions for protecting Stickies.

- One option for storage is to wrap frames up then leave in freezer for 4-5 days to kill wax moth larvae and eggs on frames.
- Strong hives can manage disease such as wax moth and chalk brood

Disposal of hives, frames and wax

- We should not expose frames and boxes to landfill or into the green bin because we can cause spread of diseases within the region.
- Suggestions of disposal are burning or potentially burying old wooden gear

Field days: The field days provide great practical experience with different hives as the BSSA have access to variations of hives: flow hive, top bar hive etc. You can register on the website.

Upcoming Events:

Lobethal Gardening Festival 31st October 2021

Sophie's Patch 6 – 8 November 2021

Meeting Closed 9:15pm

Next Meeting: Monday the 8th of November 2021