



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

January 2010

No.1



Photo John Bentley ©2009

Photo: Billabong Melton Botanic Garden

Welcome to the Twenty Ten Newsletter.
2010 is going to be another great year for
FMBG and the MBG

What's on in January 2010

17th January Sunday 10am to about 4pm
Executive Committee Planning Day
Strategic Planning for FMBG in 2010 and beyond
Allan & Bev Benson's place

Saturday 23rd January Lakeside Live 4pm - 7pm
in Caroline Springs
Your help would be appreciated in our first promotion
and fundraiser for 2010.

What's on in February 2010

10th February 6.30pm Meeting – Logo Launch and
Explore the Garden. Celebrate with a BBQ at the
Melton Botanic Garden
Meet rotundas – Contact Margaret 5367 3328

11th Thursday and 28th Sunday February 10am -
noon Grow the Garden
Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

14th February Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day
& Waterwatch at Melton Botanic Garden

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are usually held at the DJ
Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South
(Melways 342 K3) at 7.30pm on the second
Wednesday night of each month.

There is parking, easy access, good meeting
space, kitchen and toilets.

February Meeting



Friends of the
Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

Logo Launch
Free BBQ and garden
exploration

Wednesday 10th February 6.30pm
Melton Botanic Gardens
Meet at rotundas

Information:

Please contact Margaret 5367 3328 or Jill
Bentley 97433819

Special General Meeting 11th November

The Special General Meeting unanimously
passed all proposed amendments.

The amended constitution has now been
approved by Consumer Affairs. The constitution
can be found at fmbg.org.au

The changes to executive committee
composition means that there is now a vacant
ordinary member executive position. Please let
us know if you are interested in joining the
Executive Committee for a 6 month term.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday
19th January at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's
place.

Fundraising – Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

The Bunnings Sausage Sizzle was a great day for FMBG on Monday 21st December. We had many helpers throughout the day. Special thanks to Margaret and Jill for the organisation and running the whole show. David Peters did a great job on cooking and cleaning. Alan Benson gave his support the whole day. These 4 put in a full day from 9 until after 8pm. Thanks to everyone who came along to help, we had some new people and helps us bond together and also to get the Melton Botanic Garden promoted. The day was slow but steady. We raised \$597.35 for FMBG funds.

We got a call asking if could do a Sausage Sizzle on New Year's Eve. Turned out to be a really hot day weather wise with a temperature of 38C outside the BBQ tent and who knows what inside. Thanks to everyone who helped as we raised \$550.70.

Website of the month

This month take a look at the website of Sustainable Gardening Australia:

www.sgaonline.org.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia was established in 2002. SGA are a not-for-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to changing the way Australians garden.

There are some good information pages on sustainable gardening practices.

Grow the Garden Days

The Grow the Garden Days have been a great success in 2009 year. We now need to move into a period of weeding and watering until we can start planting again in late April or May.

Why not join us at the next Grow the Garden Days in February 2010 – 10am-noon 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday every month.

FMBG Library

We have books, DVDs and magazines in the library. Take a look at the library at the regular monthly meetings.

Recent purchases: Flora of Melbourne and Weeds of the South-East, Eremophilas, Seed collection DVD, seed collection and propagation books.

FMBG Logo has landed



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

Sam Harmer of Harmer Creative in Ballarat produced the stylised logo.

The logo as a whole represents a river red gum and the elements within it depict the interactions between the environment, plants, fauna and people – sun, rain, gum leaf, bird, hand and fork (people activity). We wanted something that was modern and captured the focus of FMBG.

We received feedback from members and took these into consideration. The Executive had a fair bit of debate and iterations of the logo before finally setting on the logo. The Executive met with Sam.

A logo launch will happen at the February meeting in the Melton Botanic Garden.

Lakeside Live Saturday 23rd January 4pm - 7pm in Caroline Springs

FMBG have a stall at Lakeside Live in Caroline Springs. We will be selling plants and promoting the Melton Botanic Garden.

We would really like you to consider helping at this event. People are needed from 3pm to 7.30pm or anytime in between. Just one or two hours is fine

Please contact Jill on 9743 3819 if you can help.

Another promotion and fundraiser will at the Houdini Festival on 21st March.

Frog Watch

Nine members did some frog recording on very pleasant evening on the 22nd December. We heard a few frogs – all were the Eastern Common Froglet. Sounds were recorded along Ryans Creek from the inlet at the lake up to the north pond near Tullidge Street. Unfortunately many sections along the creek were pretty quiet.



Dave Peters recording some frog sounds



Eastern Common Froglet – *Crinia signifera* (photo Daryl Akers)

Janet Dyke is the Frog Census Co-ordinator. If you would like to be part of team to help take recordings in 2010 please contact Janet on 9743 2733. Best time to do a recording is just after rain.

Frog census information can be found at:

frogs.melbournewater.com.au

Another good frog site is frogs.org.au

Latham's Snipe – Ryans Creek and MBG Importance

During the Frog Census on 22nd December FMBG members came across six Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) in the tall grass in Ryans Creek. They are regular visitors here (the birds as well as the members). Finding 6 means

this site could be of importance to their migration.

These are the largest snipe in Australia and after migrating here from overseas move up and down the east coast as far as Tasmania. They are non-breeding in Australia, just here for a holiday over summer.

More information can be found at the Birds in Backyards website:

birdsinbackyards.net/bird/235

Eucalypts in the Melton Botanic Garden

Probably one of the first areas we will develop in the Melton Botanic Garden is the Eucalyptus arboretum. It will take a few years to get the arboretum established. However, in the meantime there are some marvellous eucalypts to see in the garden. These were mostly planted in the early 1980s.

One such example is a yate near the logoon, billabong, or pond in the middle of the Melton Botanic Garden near where the Information Centre is to be located.



Eucalyptus macrandra is also known as Long-flowered Marlock or River Yate. Macandra means "long stamens" which is a feature of this eucalypt. Usually grows to a height of about 25 to 30 feet (7-9 metres) and flowers from December to March. It should also flower about a month earlier in cultivation. Its habitat is from the south west of Western Australia in the Stirling and Porongorup Ranges being found in the better watered locations. It is said to be a good windbreak tree reaching to 15 feet in about 5 years.

However, it's an excellent small Eucalyptus for the Bacchus Marsh & Melton area. So you could plant one at home.



Perhaps you might like to consider taking some time out to walk through the garden to explore the eucalypts.

International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, a celebration of life on earth and of the priceless value of biodiversity for our lives.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (www.bgci.org) is a supporting partner to the International Year of Biodiversity, and are working to safeguard our irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss.

The International Year of Biodiversity is a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth and provides a useful framework for all of our work in the coming year.

See: www.cbd.int/2010/welcome

End-of-Year Function

Thanks to Alan and Jean as the hosts for our end-of-year function.

We had great time as shown in the photos. Good company and fun with the raffle. Thanks to Lynette for her efforts in procuring prizes. Thanks also to all our sponsors who provided the prizes throughout 2009.



Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference 2010 May 21st-23rd

The conference is hosted by Friends of Inland Botanic Gardens Mildura and supported by the Shire of Wentworth Council and the Mildura Rural City Council.

The conference theme is Secrets of the Mallee.

FMBG are giving a presentation at the conference.

The program includes short presentations of interesting and innovative developments in various gardens.

Speakers will include Dr Gary Crilley, Senior Lecturer, Division of Business, School of Management, University of SA. Gary is responsible for the research on the benefits for the "over 50's" of volunteering in botanic gardens.

Brief Outline of Program:

Fri. 21st May Pre-conference tour in local area (if numbers sufficient)

6.00pm Civic Reception, Alfred Deakin Centre

Sat. 22nd May 8.30am Saturday Registration, morning sessions, afternoon discussions and AIB Gardens tours

Sun. 23rd May 8.15 Breakfast at AIB Gardens, Early birds walk, sessions, AGM, Optional afternoon river trip

Mon. 24th May Post Conference tour to places of environmental interest along the Murray River

Registration forms and details are available on the website.

See: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/events.htm

If you are interested in attending please let us know. We may look at getting accommodation for a group.

We have printed information and registration forms if anyone would like to consider attending.

Cost per person is \$120 but only \$90 if paid by 19th March. Extras per person include conference dinner \$48, breakfast in the gardens \$12, Sunday afternoon river cruise \$25, pre-conference tour \$100 and a post-conference tour \$25.

Alex Smart President of the Association of Friends of Botanic Garden will speak at our April 2010 meeting.

Ryans Creek Revegetation

Some of the wetland grasses we planted in winter are now flowering at Ryans Creek in the Melton Botanic Garden – these hopefully will be self seeding 2010. These are plants purchased through the Melbourne Water and Vision for Werribee Plains Grants.



Swamp Wallaby Grass (Amphibromus neesii) in Ryans Creek

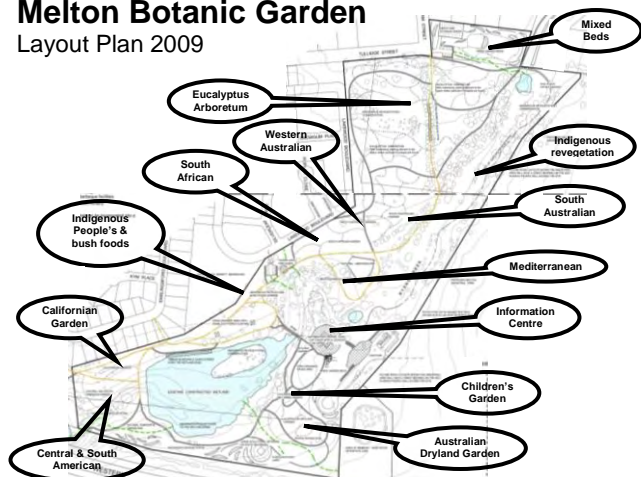
We have also planted a number of Kangaroo Apples (*Solanum laciniatum*) this year. These have been planted on the banks of Ryans Creek. It is great to see them flowering so shortly after planting as they are also quick growing. They will provide food for birds and should self seed.



Kangaroo Apple (Solanum laciniatum) - Ryans Creek

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. To date we have over 100 members for 2009-2010 and 5 corporate members.

Single-\$10, Single concession or student-\$5, Household/Concession-\$20/\$10, Associate-\$20, Corporate-\$50

New memberships are approved each month at the Executive meeting.

Please call Jill 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form.

2010 Calendar

Another exciting year of guest speakers and activities is in store for 2010. Here is a taste of what is to come.

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne.

We are planning to have speakers present on some of the planned themed garden beds in the Melton Botanic Garden. **Barb Pye** will give us a glimpse of the arid plants of Australia following their recent trip to South Australia and NT. Barb will also be with us in March on plants we can propagate for the Melton Botanic Garden. Cathy Powers will present on West Australian plants as seen on Cathy's and Ron's trip to Western Australia.

Please get a copy of the calendar from the website or at meeting.

FMBG Corporate Members 2009 / 2010

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337

Ph: (03) 9743 5033

Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338

Ph: (03) 9743 5201

Manager: Peter Earl

Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337

Ph: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

SOV Consulting

Melton VIC 3337

Ph: (03) 9746 7558

Manager: Con Nikakis

Email: nikakisc@gmail.com

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337

p: (03) 9747 0855 f: (03) 9747 9593

<http://www.westernland.com.au>

Your Commitee

President: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Vice-President: Allan Benson (9746 6641)

Treasurer: Margaret Peters (5367 3328)

Secretary: Janet Dyke (9743 2733)

Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)

Executive members: Jill Bentley (9743 3819) &

Dave Peters(5367 3328)

Safety Officer: Dave Peters (5367 3328)



If you have stories or photographs from activities in the Melton Botanic Garden please send them to: editor@fmbg.org.au

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

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