



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.

Newsletter September/October 2011

No.16



Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – National Tree Day 31st July 2011 ©John Bentley

September Activities

8th Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

14th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting

Guest Speaker: Nora Peters – Bugs and insects – a collection of Photographs

23rd Friday Frog Watch 5pm MBG

Please contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733

23rd Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner

To book please contact Lynette 9747 9034

Note: Change of venue to Golden Fleece Hotel

25th Sunday 10am-12.30pm Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

October Activities

8th Saturday noon-4pm Platypus Festival

Tamer Drive, Melton South, Toolern Creek

9th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day and Waterwatch

Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

12th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting

Workshop: Barb Pye - Propagation

13th Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

23rd Sunday 10am-12.30pm Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

November Activities

5th Saturday Djerrwarrh Festival Parade and Stall

9th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting

Guest Speaker: Marcus Ryan – Mediterranean Plants

10th Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

20th Sunday Field Trip – TBA

27th Sunday 10am-12.30pm Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

December – for your diary

14th Wednesday FMBG End-of-Year Celebration

At Bev and Allan Benson's place

10 Vivianes Way, Melton

Target 200



This not about reducing the road toll, which is an important issue, but about achieving FMBG's target to increase our membership base to 200 in 2011/2012.

You can help reach our target 200 just make sure you have renewed and also

“Sign up a friend”

For membership information please contact:
Jill Bentley 9743 3819 or see the website



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

“Leaders in Sustainability”

Upcoming Meetings

**Wednesday 14th Sept 7.30pm
Nora Peters - Bugs**



Nora is a local photographer who will show some of her recent photographs of bugs and insects. There are some great shots as you can see by the Hairy Mary Caterpillar photo above.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**Wednesday 12th Oct 7.30pm
Barb Pye
Workshop – Propagation for
the 2012 MBG plantings**

Learn propagation techniques to assist in growing plants for the 2012 Melton Botanic Garden plantings. Help to grow plants and next year plant your babies in the Melton Botanic Garden.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**Wednesday 9th Nov 7.30pm
Mediterranean Plants
Marcus Ryan**

Marcus has just returned from a study tour in Europe to enhance his already extensive knowledge of dry climate plants.

This is a not to be missed presentation.

There is a Mediterranean Garden Bed planned for the MBG so come along and find what it may look like and what will also suit your garden.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

Here is an article entitled "Eucalyptus arboretum for the Melton Botanic Garden" which appeared in the Vision for Werribee Plains Newsletter No.9 June 2011 on page 1.

Work on the construction of the Melton Botanic

Garden will accelerate, thanks to a \$132,780 grant to the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden from DSE through the Vision for Werribee Plains – and the continuing commitment of local volunteers.

An arboretum featuring low-rainfall Eucalypts species will be established within the garden. It is hoped the arboretum will inspire the use of indigenous species in urban landscapes throughout the region, and further reduce dependence on drinking water for gardens and open spaces.

Melton is an ideal location for a botanic garden of this nature. Around 50,000 new houses will be built across the Melton and Wyndham areas over coming years and the botanic garden will enhance local biodiversity and offer landscaping inspiration for new home owners and developers.

The garden will also attract visitors from across the region. Enquiries should be forwarded to: friends@fmbg.org.au



Fencing constructed by the CVGT work experience activity team

The Working Party met in late August to plan the work for the next few months. Western Water have connected a water main and hydrant type point for FMBG to use. Western water will also be donating some volcanic rocks for use in landscaping.

Contributions to help build the Arboretum:

If you or anyone you know is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment.

Wanted: Anyone have a ute they don't want?

Water Connection from Western Water

Many thanks to Western Water as the water main has been reconnected, and a new meter and a water access point installed for FMBG use.



We have purchased a special connector and hose to be able to fill up our water tank and other containers from this new point. We will also plant some *Eremophila* species around this area to beautify the surrounds.

Arboretum Walk

The first organised guided tour of the Eucalyptus Arboretum was held in September. The walk was organised for the Melton Garden Club. The CVGT Work Experience Activity Team also joined in the walk as did some FMBG members.



Some of the walk participants

Many thanks to Alan Partridge for preparing and leading the walk, and to Lyn Nardella for supplying the photographs.



Alan explaining the arboretum layout to the participants

If you know any community or school group who would like a guided walk please contact Alan Partridge on 9743 5761.

CVGT Work Experience Activity Team

The team is continuing to contribute to the development of the Melton Botanic and to enhance their skillset.

Fencing and plantings continue to help secure and improve the arboretum.

Soon they will be starting to help construct the secondary paths.

FMBG members are helping to support the team by bringing morning team for them. CVGT also organise BBQ lunches for the team and FMBG members who have been helping the team. Members of the public passing through the garden are commenting to the team on the great work they are doing.

Eucalyptus Arboretum Contacts

Project Manager:	David Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com
Working Party Chair:	John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au
Plants:	Barb Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com
Site Preparation:	David Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au
Funding:	John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au

August - Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting Report

Congratulations to everyone who was elected to the Executive Committee at the AGM. We especially welcome Corinne Cole in joining the executive for the first time and also Allan Benson who is returning after a break. John thanked everyone who helped in any way for the benefit of the Botanic Gardens during the last year. Considerable effort was achieved in order to obtain a successful standing with ourselves as well as the community and the Shire. Well done everyone.

Following an FMBG budget submission to the Melton Shire Council 2011/2012 budget the Shire allocated \$130,000 to build toilets and will also construct the car parking area allocated in the previous budget.

Also we planted hundreds if not thousands of plants and saplings during 2010/2011.

Although attendance at the meeting was around 15 with many apologies from absentee members, everyone there enjoyed the

photographic exhibition and the camaraderie with a cuppa afterwards.

Let's hope that 2011/2012 will be as successful if not better than last year.

Reporters: Les & Elaine

National Tree Day at the MBG

We had a good turn out to the National Tree Day planting at the Melton Botanic Garden. It was a beautiful sunny day for July. We finished with a BBQ at the rotundas. MSC Cr Garry Stock came along and helped plant.

Cr Gary Stock said in the August MSC Moving Ahead News "National Tree Day was celebrated across the Shire on 31 July, I participated in tree planting activities at the Melton Botanic Garden, it was fantastic to see such passionate members of our community working to enhance and help protect our environment".



Cr Garry Stock planting at the MBG



Participants enjoying the BBQ

Bunnings Spring Launch

Please keep your eye out for the email about this event

Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Have you seen anyone wearing their new name badge? Would you like your own FMBG name badge?



John Bentley

A badge will cost you about \$18.

The Executive decided it was too expensive to provide these from FMBG funds.

If you would like one and are prepared to pay for the badge please see Jill Bentley.

FMBG Logo Badges



We have plenty of FMBG button badges. Please let Jill know if you need a badge. Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public– we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery.

Fundraising Platypus Festival Saturday 8th October Noon – 4pm

Here is your chance to get the FMBG message out to the community and help raise some funds. Please contact Margaret or Jill if you can help.

Congratulations to Platinum Accounting and Taxation

On Saturday 13th August one of our corporate members Platinum Accounting and Taxation won the 2011 Star News Group Women in Business Award for the best Micro-business/Home based business. Well done to Corinne and Sheryl Cole.

FMBG Photo Competition

Congratulations to the various category winners in the photo competition. There were a good number of entries and variety of photos. Based on votes from members, Jill Bentley won the best photograph for her photo of a hippeastrum.



Clean Up and Waterwatch Day

A small but committed group participated in the Clean-up day on Sunday 14th August.

Fortunately there was not much rubbish to collect, this only goes to show that people are at adhering to keep Australia Beautiful.

Many thanks to everyone who came and we all enjoyed a nice cuppa and chat afterwards.



Reporters: Elaine and Les.

FMBG Presentations

Jill and John Bentley gave a presentation about the Melton Botanic Garden with emphasis on the Eucalyptus Arboretum to the Rotary Club of Wyndham on Wednesday 24th August. The presentation was well received with many questions being asked. An article on the talk and the work of FMBG was reported in their newsletter.

The next presentation is at the Williamstown Garden Club in October and we will also present at the BGANZ Congress later in October.

If anyone would like to be involved in giving presentations to groups please contact John or Jill. We have a pre-prepared Powerpoint presentations that you can use or just come along and support the speaker. We always need helpers to carry the equipment and hand things out.

BGANZ

FMBG is an associate member of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Publications and information on their website is well worth reading if you are interested in Botanic Gardens. FMBG will be presenting at the BGANZ Congress in Albury 21-23 October, 2011.

See: www.bganz.org.au

Grow the Garden Days (GTGD)

Grow the Garden Days continue a pace to get plantings in before the hot weather comes.



Willing helpers growing the garden



Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meetings are Tuesdays on 27th September, 25th October and 29th November, 7.30pm at the Bentley's place.

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, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

If you wish to assist with propagation and growing some plants please contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328.

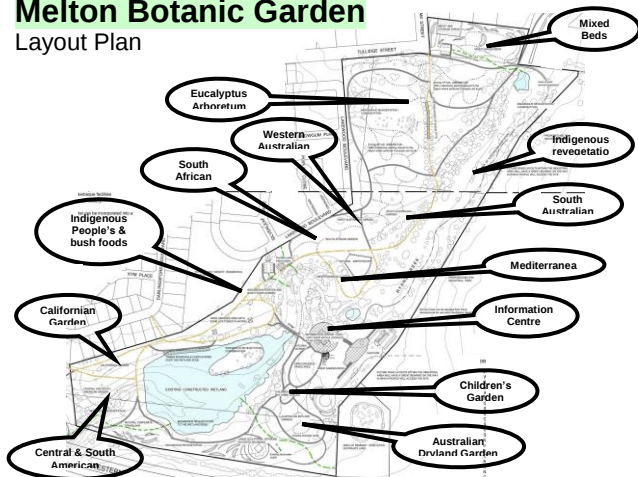
Please ensure that any potted plants you donate are saleable. This means they are healthy, planted in potting mix, in good pots and clean.

The public are very discerning when making purchases.



Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in China, Hong Kong, UK, Canada and the USA. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We are aiming for 200 in 2011-2012. So sign up a friend.

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

The Membership/Renewal form is available on the FMBG website.

You can also pay by direct bank transfer to FMBG.

Account Name: Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

BSB: 033-121 **Account Number:** 20-8503

Please ensure that your name appears under the transaction details. In addition, also submit the form or email to friends@fmbg.org.au

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.

2011 Calendar

We have an exciting speaker program for 2011. To come in November is Marcus Ryan of Lambley Nursery fame on Mediterranean Plants.

We are preparing the 2012 calendar, if you have any suggestions please contact Janet Dyke.

Facebook Fans

If you use Facebook you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type Melton Botanic Garden into the Facebook search box and you should be able to find the group.

FMBG Corporate Members 2010/11

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

Melton Toyota

143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337

Ph: (03) 8746 0300

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337

Ph: (03) 9746 6479

Manager: Corinne Cole

Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

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

Ph: (03) 9747 0855 Fax: (03) 9747 9593

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

Your Executive Committee

President:	John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Treasurer:	Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary:	Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members:	Jill Bentley (9743 3819)
	Lyn Nardella
	Corinne Cole
	Allan Benson
Safety Officer:	John Bentley
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

FMBG can give presentations to groups as well as host guided tours of the garden

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: editor@fmbg.org.au



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

oooOOOooo