

FMBG NEWS

10th Anniversary Edition



Friends of the
Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

Issue: 27 December 2013

10th Anniversary Year

This tenth year has seen many achievements and activities amongst the Friends and the development the Melton Botanic Garden. To celebrate the year we held a number of special events in September: an Open Day, a dinner, exhibition at the Melton Visitor Information Centre and had Beth Gott as our special guest speaker. Some activities to note in 2013 were: hosting even more garden tours for groups, hosting visits by the Mayor Cr Kathy Majdlik in March and also Melton City Council (MCC) officers in October, Senior Citizens Week Garden Tour, bird watch walk with the Melton Environment Group, hearing FMBG on 3AW and Magic, involvement with Young PAG (an MCC Planned Activity Group), the depot and nursery continued development, commencement of the Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Usage Garden with the Lions Club of Melton, hosting the AGM of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, propagated 833 cuttings at the October meeting, and huge weeding sessions in the indigenous grassland when we noticed the presence of nasty foreign grasses.

There have been many achievements apart from the range of events. The most significant achievement was receiving the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award for "Community Action and Leadership". We received a number of grants including one for Solar Panels on the Depot Shed. Importantly this year the City of Melton allocated \$30,000 in the 2013/2014 budget for development of the Melton Botanic Garden which will allow commencement of the Western Australian and South Australian beds. The development of the Koori Student Garden and gaining some funding from the Mayoral Charity Fund towards the Disability Garden being designed by PAG. Our partnership with CVGT for the work experience activity teams has expanded to 4 days per week and to a 12 month contract. The Rotary Club of Melton committing \$10,000 towards a project in the MBG. We maintained a financial membership of 200 members and have all Executive Committee positions filled.

This edition of the newsletter mainly shows the anniversary year through photos of what has taken place. I hope you have enjoyed being part of the anniversary as we look forward to our 15th, 20th, 25th



John and Lyn blowing out the candles on the Anniversary cake

Anniversary Dinner

We held the 10th Anniversary Dinner at the Golden Fleece Hotel. This is the most people we have had attending an FMBG dinner.

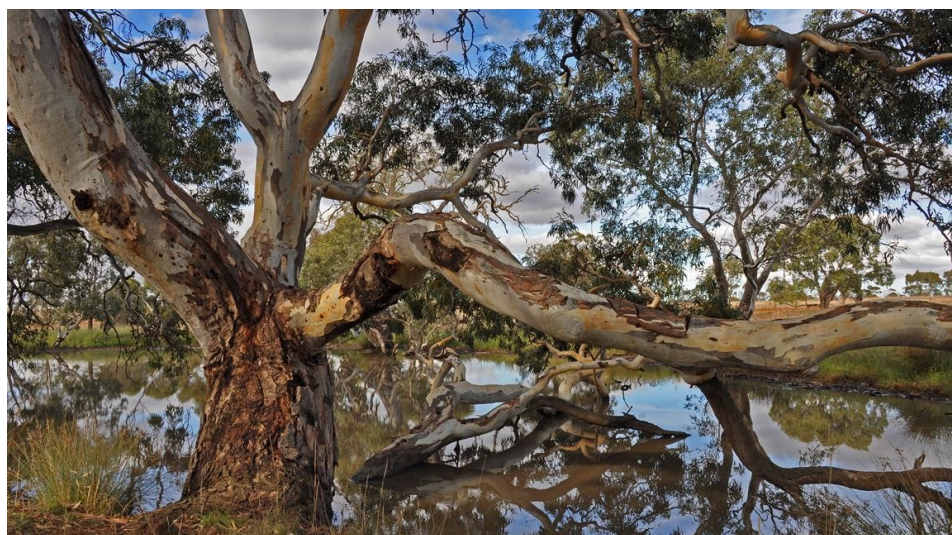
It was great to celebrate, catch-up and reflect on 10 years of FMBG.



One of the tables at the dinner

Regular Groups

- **Gumnuts:**
1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum
- **Lakers:**
2nd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – Meet at the Lake
- **Creekers:**
Thursdays 9am-noon – Meet Depot/Ryans Creek
- Everyone is most welcome to come along to these activities



River Red Gum Ornamental Lake Melton Botanic Garden © Anne Langmaid



Jean Partridge leading a garden tour on Open Day



Receiving cheque from Mayor

Garden Tours

Alan Partridge, Jean Partridge and Allan Benson conducted garden tours every 20 minutes during Open Day. These were well received.

We have built up expertise in conducting garden tours over the last couple of years. Please contact FMBG if you would like a garden tour for your group.

Open Day

We had over 250 visitors at the Open Day and involvement by FMBG partners: Western Water, Melton Home Timber and Hardware, Melton Wind Symphony, The Lions Club of Melton, Bunnings and Melton Rovers. Ideal weather was turned on.

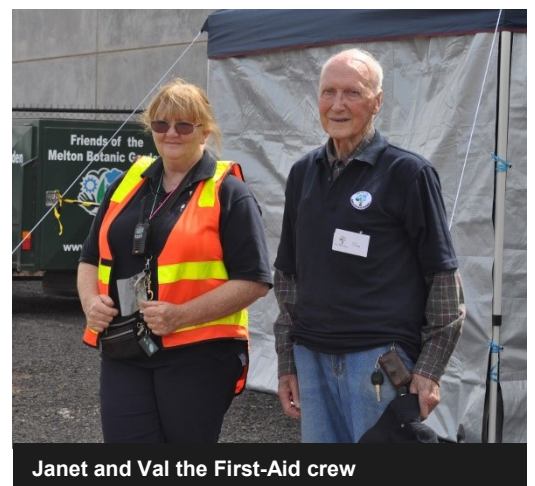
Speeches were made by the Mayor Kathy Majdlik, State Member Don Nardella and FMBG President John Bentley. The Mayor Kathy Majdlik made a large personal donation to FMBG on the day. Project students from the College of Business at Victoria University assisted with the event planning and conducting a visitor survey. Many thanks to Jill Bentley the Event Manger, the Open Day Committee, Dave Peters the Event Safety Officer and all the volunteers who contributed to a very successful day.



Melton Wind Symphony



David Pye looking after the FMBG display



Janet and Val the First-Aid crew

Fluker Posts



Fluker Post MBG1

Three Fluker Posts were installed in the Melton Botanic Garden in August thanks to a \$1,000 City of Melton Environmental Grant. The Fluker Posts are so called after their creator Dr. Martin Fluker from Victoria University, Melbourne. The posts are photo point posts.

You can take photos at the posts so that we can monitor the changes over time at the three locations in the Melton Botanic Garden. MBG1 post is in the North Eastern section of the Eucalyptus Arboretum, MBG2 is on Ryans Creek and MBG3 is next to the public toilets looking over the Koori Student Garden and lake. Photos are emailed to flukerpost@gmail.com and placed onto the web for viewing.

You can see the Fluker Posts and where yours and others photos will be posted at: www.flukerpost.com



From post MBG2



John and Jill with the award

Award Winners

FMBG won the award for “Community Action and Leadership at the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities 2013 Awards in July. This award demonstrates the wonderful, strong and rewarding partnerships we have built up with community groups and organisations and our achievement in developing the botanic garden.

The process commenced with MCC nominating FMBG. We then prepared a submission and met the judge at the Melton Botanic Garden in May. We had a good turn out of volunteers for showcasing our credentials. Then we waited. We received notification that we were a finalist. It turned out we were one of nine finalists in our category with all finalists potential worthy winners. What a shock it was at the dinner to hear

FMBG being read out as the winner. A speech had to be thought about on the way to podium.

Every FMBG member should give themselves a pat on the back as we all contributed in some way to winning the award.



John presenting the acceptance speech



Depot and Nursery Garden Sheds erected in 2013

Nursery and Depot

The Depot and Nursery have started to take shape thanks to the efforts of David Peters (Depot Manager) and David Pye and the volunteers such as Phillip Newman in helping to construct the depot sheds. We now have more storage in the depot by way of cupboards and the sheds.

The installation of solar panels in October by Re-energy is helping to meet our sustainability goals. The solar system was made possible by the City of Melton and Collingwood Club Community Grant program. FMBG received \$8150 toward the 3.9KW system.

We look forward to having a plant sales area in 2014 if we are successful in our application to the City of Melton for a permit to operate the sales area at the depot.



Plant tables at the Nursery



Shade house



Plant propagation - Shade house



Large potting mix bin built by Da-



Water tanks nearly full and solar



Propagation activity in October

Nursery Manager

Margaret Cook has taken on the role of Nursery Manager. She has been busy counting, recording and organising the plants we have. Next she is determining the plants we need to propagate for the garden and for sale plus starting to prepare the nursery policies and procedures. Margaret has been watering the plants on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

David and Barb Pye have helped in her new role.

Margaret is usually at the nursery on Tuesday mornings. I am sure she will be calling for volunteers who might like to help in the Nursery in 2014.

Here is an update from Margaret of what has been happening in the FMBG Nursery over the past two months Oct - Dec.

- Sorting and labelling of cuttings
- Purchased Ty Tags labels for 90mm pots for sale
- Numbering and labelling of outdoor benches
- Identification of plants for sale and price tagging
- Commenced Nursery Policy and Procedures Manual
- Recording the plants in stock and the plant production
- Maintenance of a weekly watering roster
- Construction of a large potting mix receptacle for soil
- Proposal for selling plants on a trolley at a Melton outlet
- Preparation of cuttings for planting next year
- Seeds planted and cuttings ordered from a nursery
- Planning for potting plants in January
- Application to MCC for selling plants from the depot.

Many FMBG people have been involved in the above activities, with David and Barbara Pye leading most of them and giving me valuable assistance

End of Year Celebration

We held the end of year celebration for the FMBG's 10th year at the home of Dave and Margaret Peters. They were excellent hosts with Margaret also conducting tours of their extensive garden.



Verna and Yan

There was a good turn out of members and we had pleasant weather. We raised the most ever at an end of year raffle. So many thanks go to Lynette Rehling for approaching Melton businesses and to the businesses who supported FMBG by giving items for the raffle.

Anne Langmaid made a fabulous fruit cake for the occasion to help mark the last event in our 10th year. We cut the cake and sang "Happy Birthday" to FMBG. It was a marvelous occasion for us to conclude our 10th year celebrations.



Time for the cake and deserts



Planting with Koori students

Koori Student Garden

The Koori Student Garden was designed in consultation with Koori students from Melton primary and secondary schools in 2012. Site work was commenced in May 2012. The final garden plan was approved by Melton City Council in 2013 and planting by the students and FMBG took place in September 2013. This has been a very successful partnership in consultation with Michelle Marion, Koori Engagement Support Officer, Department of Education, Linda Bradburn, Melton City Council and FMBG. The CVGT team did the site preparation in July and August by digging over the bed, adding compost and constructing the paths and circles. Tony Dyke used his tractor to move most of the rock onto the site. Peter and John did the rock edging. The final toppings on the paths are all that is to be done to complete the project. Melton City Council are watering the garden bed over the summer and this will help establish the indigenous plants in this bed.



Looking from the west



Koori Student Garden from Fluker Post MBG3

FMBG Activities from Les and Elaine

Les Gordon together with Elaine Neely have been diligently submitting reports and reflections of FMBG activities throughout the year. Here are some extracts from their reports since the last newsletter.

Open Day: Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the open day, from the committee who organised the day from all their meetings to the volunteers who helped on the day. From the tour guides, people who manned the information stalls, the BBQ cooks, the plant sellers and custodians of the money from the sales and the first aid people and security. Everyone deserves an honourable mention. Our guests included Don Nardella and the Lord Mayor, Kathy. The weather was extremely kind and the gardens looked splendid.

Most of the plants were sold and we obtained many new members and current members renewed on the day. A wonderful feeling came over all of us through the hard work. As Don Nardella said, "we are a family" and this showed on the day.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and words at the passing of my mother. It was very much appreciated.

Koori Student Garden: Many thanks to the Koori students from the Melton Schools for their tremendous help in establishing the Koori Student Garden in Melton Botanic Garden. Their time and help was beyond all expectation. In a few years' time we will really see the benefits of their work. To those who helped these students, your reward will be shown in the future by the success of the garden. Thanks to everyone who came on Sunday 22nd September, to complete the Koori garden planting. At the same time we welcomed new members who helped us old ones in the garden. Very much appreciated. We hope now the garden will bloom with a little help from nature and us watering.



Les and Elaine working in the MBG

Motor cyclists: These continue to create a nuisance. Only if something could be done to discourage them from tearing up the garden. Considering all the hard work we have done to keep the gardens beautiful, we don't want to see it go to waste.

Creekers 26th September: Due to the inclement weather, we proceeded to work inside. We propagated nearly one hundred plants. These plants with a little bit of luck and tender loving care will go on sale at the Djerriwarrh Festival. We also thank Troy and Raymond for all their help over the last three months. They and others have been on hand at most Creeker's days.

Anniversary Dinner: Friday night 27 September at the Golden Fleece was a great success. Almost 50 members were in attendance. A truly great turnout. Also a cake to celebrate the occasion didn't go astray. Thank you who ever arranged that, it went down well.

Monthly meeting 9th October: With the help of grants from MCC and Collingwood Football Club we have installed solar panels on the depot's roof. This will decrease our electricity bill. Rotary Club of Melton is promoting a Harness Racing night at TAB Corp Park on the 25 October. Some of the proceeds will be going to Melton Botanic Garden. Also a trip to Werribee State Rose Garden is planned in November. This is where the Historic Werribee Mansion is situated. It is an extremely beautiful mansion and worth visiting if you haven't seen it before and if you have a second visit wouldn't go astray. Barb and Dave set us working to propagate some plants. Little did we know that we would do 833 plants. A new record. Well done everyone.

Creekers October: Due to the harsh weather, Alan and Jean laid out heaps of plants to be planted. About a dozen of us with the help of the horticultural students planted them in very quick time before the rain settled in. Also Alan and I walked around the other side of the creek only to discover that a lot of mowing and slashing has to be done. Some of the grass is over one's head.

Seniors Week Walk: Although only short notice was given, there was great pleasure given to those seniors who walked through the gardens. Alan and Jean are to be congratulated for all their work they put in to achieve this wonderful result. It could become an annual event.

Monthly meeting Wednesday 13 November: Our guest speaker was Dave Torr who spoke on bird watching. Not the normal birds we see every day flying around Melton but those who inhabit the Long Forest area, the You Yongs and Brisbane Ranges. Many of birds he introduced we can safely say that we have never heard of thus making the talk very interesting. Also at the meeting Margaret said that we made over \$260.00 profit from the sale of plants at the Djerriwarrh Festival. Well done. The power from the solar panels should be in credit very shortly. Also we have erected a new shed which is next to the other two sheds behind the depot.

Gumnuts and Creekers November: We are mainly at this stage propagating plants. This is because of the inclement weather. Last week we crossed the creek and restored many of the plants. We could see the area, so thanks to the CVGT for mowing and slashing the grass. Again this summer watering will be our main concern.

CALM November: We, the Creekers were invited by the CALM students to afternoon tea at Victorian University Campus in Melton South. It was very enjoyable. We had party pies, sausage rolls, cakes and various sweets. This all went down very nicely. This was to show their appreciation for inviting them to help us on any Thursday at the gardens. Their help in the gardens certainly was very generous and we hope they can again join us in 2014.

PAG December: We would like to thank PAG for the BBQ that they put on for everyone. They showed us that they appreciated us in inviting them to help us in various tasks during the year. We would like to thank PAG very much for the help they gave us during the year and look forward to seeing them next year.

Creekers and Gumnuts December: For the last month we have mainly weeded and restored the guards around the plants and trees. Watering has been done by hand from the small lake. During the summer months we will need volunteers on a roster basis to water these plants and trees otherwise some are likely to die. If anyone has a 4-wheel drive to transport water carrier, it will make things a bit easier to water instead of dragging water in the trolley.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year – Elaine and Les.

National Tree Day

We had well over 100 people involved in National Tree Day planting in July with just over 80 coming from cubs and scouts together with their family and leaders. This year we planted in three areas, two on different sections of Ryans Creek and at the main lake.

So special thanks to all the scout groups, 2nd and 3rd Melton, Caroline Springs and Keilor Village who participated this year in the National Tree Day. Good work by all the jo-eyes, cubs, scouts, venturers, leaders, parents and siblings who came along and did such a great job.

The scouts hosted a sausage sizzle for everyone following the planting. It was a very worthwhile and great community engagement activity holding this planting day once again.

Many thanks to Melton Toyota, Djerriwarrh District Scout Association and Bunnings who donated funds/items towards making this a very successful day.



Les and a scout planting



PAG Disability Garden beginning to be dug over as part of the site preparation

Community Group Involvement

Lions Club of Melton MBG Project

FMBG and the Lions Club of Melton have been discussing possible projects in the Melton Botanic Garden for a couple of years. Following a visit earlier this year Lions suggested that they would like to start with a project to beautify around the new public toilets. This area is in the Indigenous People's and Bushfoods section of the botanic garden.

Due to relocation of the planned car park this area's landscape plan needed to be changed. It was decided that a Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Plant Usage Garden would be established and Lions were asked to manage the project. Melton Lions have been fundraising and also successfully applied for a Western Water grant of \$2,000 to help cover the cost of the plants. The project deadline is to complete the garden by the end of June 2014. The plans for the garden were drawn up by John Bentley. The FMBG and Lions Club project team were happy with them. Beth Gott advised on the plant list. MCC have now approved the plans and plants. Lions Club members have commenced tilling the area using a cultivating machine kindly loaned from Western Water.

The project group from Lions is Lisa Morrissey (Project Manager), Manny Spiteri, Val Turner and from FMBG Jill and John Bentley. The next stages in the project will be ongoing weed control, mulching, construction of paths, edging beds with volcanic rocks, rabbit proof fencing around the grassland section, lattice around the water tank and finally planting.

PAG Disability Garden

The Planned Activity Group (PAG) have been working with FMBG since February coming to the depot on the first Tuesday each month. PAG raised the possibility of being involved in something like a garden bed project in the botanic garden. There is a small section in front of the depot that needs beautifying. This area is ideal for such a PAG project. The Melton Mayoral Charity Fund was able to provide \$1500 towards the project to create a disability garden designed by PAG. PAG are now drafting the concept, brief and sketch plans which will be discussed and submitted to MCC for approval as it is a variation to the landscape design plans. The garden area is being dug over by the CVGT team to help prepare the area for the garden bed.

Rotary Project

Rotary have been raising funds towards a project in the MBG. The Tabcorp Park night fundraiser was a very successful event. FMBG had two tables at the dinner to help support the event.

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)
 Anne Langmaid
 Myles Bentley
 Dave Peters
 Safety Officers: John Bentley / Dave Peters
 FMBG librarian: Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

FMBG Patron



Jane Edmanson OAM is the patron of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden.

You can hear Jane on 3AW and Magic and see her on Gardening Australia.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about FMBG or the botanic garden

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friends@fmbg.org.au

Visit us on the web at www.fmbg.org.au

or find us on Facebook

FMBG Corporate Members

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

Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337
Ph: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337
Ph: (03) 9746 6479
Manager: Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

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>

Presentations and Tours

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

FMBG Membership

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.



**FMBG wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**