



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter December 2014

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 30

FMBG Events

December Events

Tuesday 2nd

10.00-1pm Nursery open for sales
10.00-noon PAG - work and celebration

Wednesday 3rd

9.00- 11.00 Snipe survey-Birgitta Hansen & Geraldine
9.30-noon Gumnuts

Thursday 4th

9.30-noon Creekers
6.00-8.00pm Bunnings Christmas Family night sausage sizzle

Sunday 7th

2.00-4.00 Golding park, Aspire Estate, Plumpton
FMBG stand, children's' plant a seed activity

Tuesday 9th

10.00- noon Lakers
10.00- 7.00pm Nursery plant sales
Christmas Special hours - buy a plant for a Kris Kringle or Christmas gift
10.00-7.00pm Potting on day at nursery

Wednesday 10th

6.30 pm FMBG End of Year Celebration
Janet and Tony Dyke's, 36 Strathtulloh Circuit, Melton Sth

Thursday 11th

9.30- noon Creekers

Sunday 14th

10.00- noon Nursery open for plant sales

Monday 15th

7.30- 10.30pm Executive Committee meeting

Tuesday 16th

10.00- noon Lakers
10.00- 1.00 Nursery open for plant sales

Thursday 18th

9.30- noon Creekers
Tuesday 23rd Nursery closed
Tuesday 30th Nursery closed

January Events

Tuesday 6th Nursery closed

Tuesday 13th Nursery open for sales

Tuesday 20th Nursery open for sales

Sunday 18th

10.00- 4.00pm Executive Planning Day

Thursday 22nd

1.00-2.00pm MCC FMBG Liaison Meeting

Tuesday 27th

10.00- noon Nursery open for sales

Regular Activity Groups

Lakers

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon, meet at Depot/Lake

Creekers

Thursdays 9am-noon, meet at Depot/Ryans Creek

Gumnuts

1st & 3rd Tuesday 9.30-noon, meet at Eucalyptus Arboretum

Nursery Team

Tuesdays 10am-1pm, meet at Depot

Odd Jobbers

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-noon, meet at Depot



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM

business
excellence
awards
2014 WINNER



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards



Category Winner

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013

sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm at the Bentley's house

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue 2015

Meetings held March to November

(September meeting at Melton Library)

Arnolds Creek Community Centre

19 Claret Ash Blvd, Melton West Vic 3337

Melways Map 336 C4

Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm

At Janet and Tony's house in Strathtulloh.
36 Strathtulloh Circuit.

\$1/ticket Raffle with many prizes.

BYO food, utensils, chairs etc
and a salad or desert to share

Contact Jill to advise of salad or desert 9743 3819

February Meeting at Melton Botanic Garden Depot

6.30pm Wednesday 11th February 2015

Continuing works at the MBG Depot

The work area and wash up area are taking shape thanks to FMBG volunteers and Rob the Builder. Funding for these projects was received from the Melton City Council and the Club Caroline Springs Community Grants Program



The Work Area



Rob the Builder drilling holes



David Pye helping clean away soil



Rob the Builder laying the concrete for the wash up area



FMBG Volunteers spreading the concrete

Watering at the MBG

Many thanks to David Pye who planned, organised and installed the new water piping through the Melton Botanic Garden. A local business Underground Assets Group dug the trench at a reduced cost and FMBG volunteers and the CVGT team helped lay the pipe and cover the trench. The pipe allows us to tap in with hoses at various points to water the Eucalyptus Arboretum, Acacia Walk and Southern African Sections. A large connecting pipe is attached to the mains each time we need to use the new water pipe. A plan of the system is in the depot.

Many thanks to Dave Peters who has installed the water pump to the depot water tanks. Dave planned and organised the installation of the watering system at the Plant Nursery and Sensory Garden. We are now watering the nursery plants and Sensory Garden from our water tanks that hold 60,000L (and they are full). The new wetlands area on Ryans Creek will allow us to also draw water to fill the tanks. The Nursery watering system and pump was funded by a CWA Melton Owls donation.

Bird Week in Melton

Bird Walk and Talk at Melton Botanic Garden



On Friday 24th October Melton Environment Group presented a Bird Walk and Talk at Melton Botanic Garden, as part of Bird Week. A fascinating bird talk by Nora Peters was accompanied by several anecdotes about our local birds. This was followed by a walk through the Botanic Garden led by Geraldine Kelly. Geraldine, with her intimate knowledge of birdlife in the Garden was able to point out its rich diversity of birdlife. She pointed out to the group a Dusky Woodswallow nesting in a tree fork beside a track.

However the highlight of this walk was the sighting of two endangered Latham's Snipe.

Wetland bird expert Dr Birgita Hansen of Federation University Australia was present on this walk and was on hand to give a highly qualified and positive identification of the Latham's Snipe. Dr Hansen recently gave a presentation on Latham's Snipe to Friends of Melton Botanic Garden, in September.

These birds migrate between Australia and Japan each year, breeding in Japan during our winter and joining us for our summer. Latham's Snipe are considered near threatened in Japan and vulnerable here in Australia due to habitat destruction, urbanisation, land reclamation and domestic predators. They have been recorded in the MBG for a period of about ten years so the Garden is obviously a site of considerable significance to the snipe.

Latham's Snipe are subject to several levels of legislative protection, reflecting their endangered status.

Depot security has been improved with additional security lighting, an upgrade to the security system and an internal fence. Funds were received from a Department of Justice Safety Grant and FMBG.

Lizard Lounges and Butterfly Bars

On Wednesday 12th November Brian Bainbridge of Indigenous Flora and Flora Association delivered a presentation about gardening using indigenous flora. Indigenous wildflowers and grasses provide food and breeding areas for a multitude of locally native insects (hence the title 'Butterfly Bars'). Plants for insect use (rather than the usual practice of choosing 'bird attracting plants' usually grevilleas) attracts a greater variety of native insects. This in turn attracts a variety of native insect eating birds, which are usually driven away by the more aggressive honeyeaters. Provision of 'honeyeater plants' such as grevilleas and bottlebrushes in one corner of the garden allows a greater variety of birdlife.

The Bursaria was suggested as a favourite insect attracting plant, as well as being a very attractive looking bush. Masses of native insects are attracted to the sweet smelling flowers. In fact many native wildflowers are pollinated only by native insects, especially native bees.

One bee in particular, the Blue-banded Bee is crucial in pollinating Dianella flowers. The pollen is enclosed within the anther and is unable to be pollinated by the European Honeybee. The Blue-banded Bee is attracted especially to blue flowers. It is also fond of the introduced Rosemary flower.

Brian discussed how the Blue-banded Bee lands on the Dianella flower and buzzes its wings at a particular pitch. These vibrations produced induce the stamen to release their pollen, onto the bee. This is known as 'buzz pollination'!

This fascinating story is just one example why it is important to garden with indigenous plants.

Monthly meeting on 12th November 2014

The meeting was again held at Arnolds Creek Community Hall. We had the pleasure of two rooms. Our guest speaker was Brian Bainbridge. He spoke about Lizard Lounges and Butterfly Bars.

A Trivia Night was held at the Toyota Showrooms in High Street for 'Relay for Life' which raises funds for Cancer Council research, prevention and support services. We thank our Corporate Member Home Hardware for sponsoring us and meeting the cost of entry. We ended up second on the night, missing out by one point. Well done everyone plus it was great fun.

Grow the Garden Day n 23rd November was well attended and a lot of weeding was done, despite the growing heat. Hopefully it will rain a lot more before summer sets in. we need it!

Remember the End-of-Year breakup will be held at Janet's place on the 10th December at Strathulloh Circuit. This should be a very happy occasion, as always

Elaine and Les

Nora's bird sightings at MBG

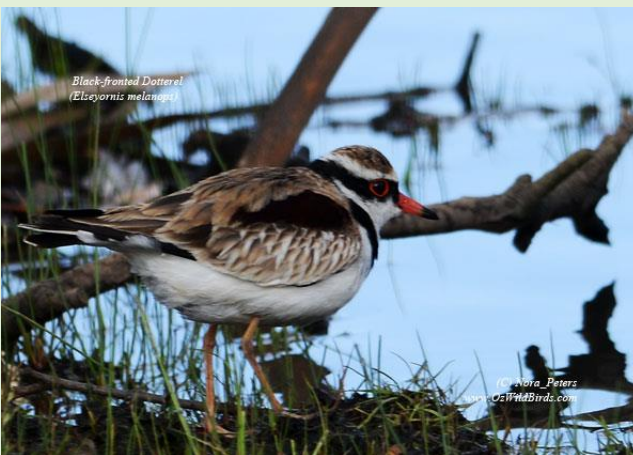
I went to the gardens on the 17th November where the Pelican and Darter (Female) were checking me out, the Black-fronted Dotterel was running along the edge of the pond. The Latham's Snipe got spooked and flew over to the grass area on the far side. I saw it again when a couple of Chestnut Teals decided that I was in their way and Rainbow Lorikeets are always nice to capture!

Yesterday I walked around the lake and saw two Pelicans, no Darters (which was unusual), the Dotterels were on the track in the grassland behind and scurrying for the seclusion of the pond, plenty of Welcome Swallows and babies on the pond and then I found this Willie Wagtail and nest at the far end of the creek, (three eggs when I had a peak) when it had vacated for a brief moment. I didn't have my small camera so I had to stand way-off to get this image with the big lens. Noisy Miners feeding quite a few young as well on my walk back to the car, no Latham's Snipe this visit.

Nora Peters



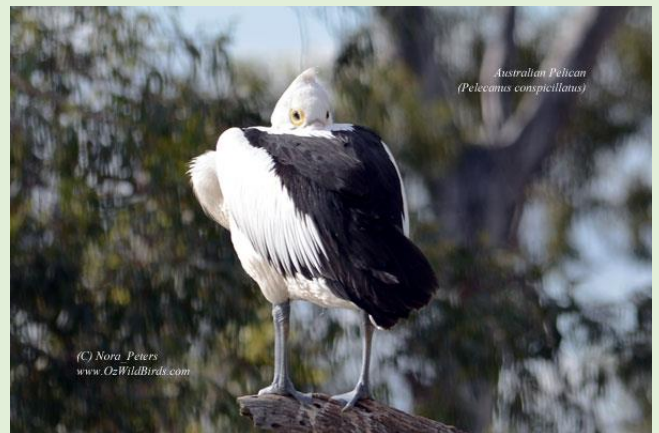
Rainbow Lorikeet at MBG



Black-fronted dotterel at MBG



Australian Darter and Pelican at MBG



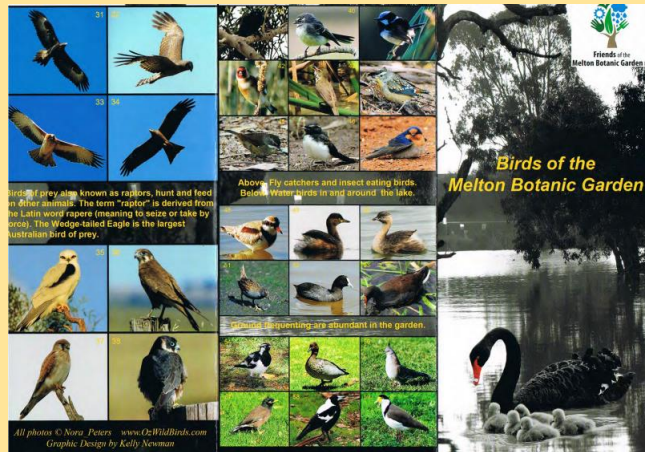
Pelican at MBG



Willi Wagtail on nest

Hot off the press Birds of the Melton Botanic Garden brochure

The brochure was launched during Bird Week
The full brochure is 8 panels, so the picture misses out the panels with the name of each bird - you can pick up a brochure when you visit the Depot at the MBG.
The brochure has been made possible through a City of Melton Environmental Grant in June 2014 and the work of FMBG members Nora, Kelly and Geraldine.
Many thanks go to Nora Peters, Kelly Newman and Geraldine Kelly for the photos, information, artwork and design of the brochure.



Steve Parker a new FMBG member who attended the Bird Week walk at the MBG has been watching the birds in the MBG since the walk.

Some of Steve's observations are:

* Saw my first Latham's Snipe this afternoon just north of the small lake. (Thursday 13 November 2014)

* Ella loves her new binoculars! Had a walk at the gardens today and she got a good look at rainbow lorikeets, eastern rosellas, pelicans and black duck with ducklings. (4 November 2014) [Ella was one of the winners in Bird Week of the Binoculars Competition]

* Went looking for the Dusky Woodswallow nest (featured in October newsletter) after Creekers yesterday and the nest appeared deserted. Then I found the two fledglings flying around with the parents. (30 October 2014)

Dusky Woodswallow nesting at MBG



Woodswallows nest in a Lemon Scented Gum

Turkey Bush: Eremophila deserti

The indigenous form of Eremophila deserti we obtained from Ian Taylor (Western Plains Flora) and planted on the east side of Ryans Creek to help buffer the planned industrial estate is flowering. Well one plant of the many is. This is very exciting.

Also on the east side the buttercups we planted a number of years ago were flowering and had not been completely covered in weeds. The tangled lignum seems to be tangling in some areas and also flowering. There are many other plants we planted at Ryans Creek from 2008 are doing well, though in areas they are swamped by weeds/ grasses. There are large plants of River Mint on the east side of the creek when compared to the west



Eremophila deserti



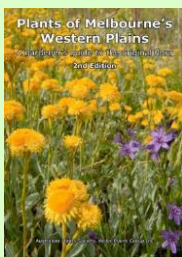
River Mint

Council Grants for 2015 MBG Developments

Council have a received a grant for the concrete drain removal from High St to the Botanic Garden and replacing with a wetland. A concept plan is available. The grant is of the order of half a million dollars. A \$30,000 Metro Organics grant has been received by MCC to commence works in the Southern African garden to incorporate compost from the green bins into the garden and plant some test beds.

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains 2nd Ed.

FMBG has copies to sell of this excellent book which was released in August 2012.



This book is available to purchase from Margaret Peters on 5367 3328

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

It is an excellent resource for members and you might like to purchase it as a present for someone.

FMBG bus trip to Cathy and Ron Powers' garden

On 16th November Friends of the Botanic Garden visited Cathy and Ron Powers' garden at the Brisbane Ranges, followed by lunch and a walk at Anakie Gorge. The trip was enjoyed by all.



Cathy Powers showing members the native garden



FMBG Plant Nursery

Extended Hours Christmas Sale

Tuesday 9th December 10am to 7pm
Also Sunday 14th December 10am-noon

Regular Opening Hours

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, or other times by appointment

Address:

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery,
21 Williams Street, Melton

Plants

Native plants grown in the Melton Botanic Garden
A range of plants including Eremophila and Eucalyptus varieties.

Some decorative succulents.

Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens.

Pricing

Forestry tubes \$2, 70mm pots \$3, 90mm pots \$5.

Contact: friends@fmbg.org.au or 9743 3819



Margaret Cook, Nursery Manager

2015 Calendar

We have confirmed nearly all the speakers for meetings and trips for 2015.

You can collect a printed copy at our meetings, depot, events or download from the FMBG web site

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

FMBG Corporate Members

Melton Home Timber and Hardware
45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9743 5033
Managers Brad & Scott Morten

Callea Pearce Lawyers
MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
Web: www.calleapearce.com.au

Lampe Family Lawyers
Level 4/326 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 9326 3811
Fax: (03) 9326 4344
Web: www.lampe.com.au
Email: enquiries@lampe.com.au
Ph: (03) 9746 6479

Satellite City Furniture & Bedding
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 9747 9593
<http://www.westernland.com.au>;

Melton Toyota
143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337
Ph: (03) 8746 0300

Platinum Accounting & Taxation
9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337 Manager:
Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

Melton Produce
38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338
Ph (03) 9743 5201
Manager: Peter Earl

Melton Toyota
143 – 147 High Street, Melton, 3337
(03) 8746 0300

Please support our Corporate Members as they support FMBG in many ways.

Membership

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

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We had 206 members in 2011-2012. We had 218 members in 2013/14.

Please help to sign up a new member so we can keep up a strong membership base.

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.

For membership information please contact: Jill Bentley 9743 3819 or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we may be able to arrange to collect your payment and form.

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

This year have hosted the most number of guided tours ever. Tour groups from 10-40 plus have been hosted by various FMBG members leading the walks. We already have public tours and bookings for 2015 Interested in being on the Guiding Team? There are a number of roles needed, it is not just leading a walk. Please contact John Bentley 9743 3819



Do 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) / Daryl Akers
Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

Facebook and Twitter Fans

If you use Facebook and/or Twitter you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type "Melton Botanic Garden" into the search box and you should