



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter June 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 33

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Join us at our meeting venue at Arnolds Creek Community Centre 19 Claret Ash Blvd, Melton West Vic 3337

Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

July Meeting

Colleen Miller presenting on Western Grasslands. Colleen has been studying and growing indigenous plants for many years and more recently involved in the creation of a large grassland in the west of Melbourne. Colleen takes stunning photos of indigenous plants having her photos published in the Flora of Melbourne and various online sites



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM



Category Winner
Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013
sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

Executive Committee

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

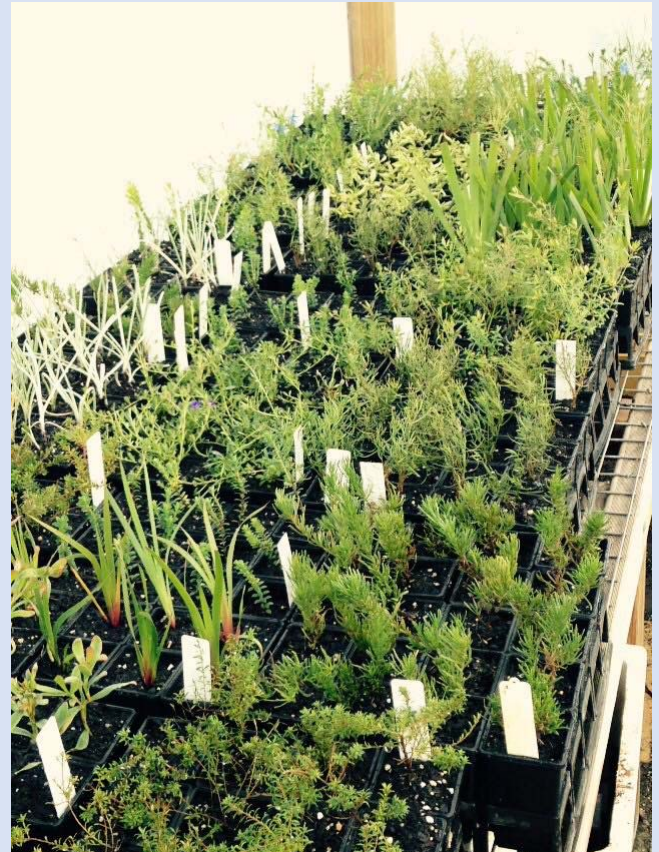
Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

- **Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Lakers:** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon
- **Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon
- **Safaris:** Tues & Thurs 9.30am-noon
- **Sandgropers:** 2nd & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

FMBG Plant Nursery

Plenty of propagation activity and tending of plants has been happening at the nursery



Very busy, a happy bunch at the Nursery this morning. It was a chilly one so we set up in the depot and re-potted (to larger pots) over 700 plants that will be ready for sale in spring. Great effort by our volunteers! Hope to see everyone there.

Elaine and Les



Reconciliation Week Guide Tour at MBG

On Friday 29th May Friends of Melton Botanic Garden hosted a Reconciliation Week tour through the Garden.



Beneath the gum trees beside the lake



John Bentley describing the Koorie plants display

Reconciliation Week Guided Tour at the MBG was a great success with people coming from Dandenong, Hawthorn, Brunswick and Redesdale. We also had 22 Aboriginal students from Melton West Primary School. We had some dignitaries with Mayor Cr. Sophie Ramsey, Deputy Mayor Cr. Nola Dunn, and Millie Ross ABC Gardening Australia Researcher, 3CR Gardening Show and guest presenter on 3AW Big Backyard. Many thanks to all the FMBG volunteers who helped make the tour a great success.

Several Yam Daisies (*Microseris lanceolata*) also known as Myrniong were pointed out. These daisies were once a mainstay of local Koorie diet and their yellow flowers were described by early European settlers as covering the countryside. Within a few short years these once prolific plants had been wiped out by sheep grazing thereby depriving the Koories of a major part of their food supply. These plants that were once so common are surprisingly easy to propagate but just as surprisingly difficult to sustain in the ground!



Yam Daisies

John also pointed out *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* 'Lara Dwarf'. This small 'dwarf' grevillea is now extinct in the wild, another native grassland species that has not survived. It now only exists as a cultivated plant.



Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Lara Dwarf'

It is important that we acknowledge that people have lived here for many millennia. Human history in our region did not begin in the Nineteenth Century, as much written history has seemed to imply, but reaches back perhaps 50,000 years or so. Their tread on this land was light and their lifestyle was sustainable over many millennia but their presence can be confirmed by the many scar trees along our waterways, and by the numerous stone tools still to be found on the ground.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Aaron and Bec Benson on the safe arrival of their baby boy.

We hope to see him helping at the garden soon!

World Environment Day 5 June 2015

FMBG received an Environment Grant of \$1,000 on World Environment Day 5 June 2015 from Melton City Council. This grant will be used for 50 plant labels in the Victorian Volcanic Plains Garden. This will enhance the visitor experience and help educate and identify the plant species. We thank Melton City Council for making these grants available.



Jill and John Bentley receiving \$1,000 cheque from Melton Mayor Sophie Ramsey

Melton Botanic Garden NAIDOC Walk

Friday 10th July 10.00 – 11.30am

During NAIDOC Week 5-12 July 2015 take a guided walk through the Melton Botanic Garden to see the indigenous plants.

There is a Guided Walk at 10am on Friday 10 July, followed by morning tea. The walk is just under one and a half hours and will be followed by morning tea. There are public toilets in the garden near the lake and toilets at the Depot.

Highlights are the remnant vegetation in the garden, the indigenous plantings on Ryans Creek, the Koori Student Garden designed by Koori students from Melton primary and secondary schools, the Victorian Volcanic Plains Garden and the lakeside indigenous plantings.

For catering and organisation purposes please book in.

Meet at the Depot, cnr of Tullidge St & Williams St.

Contact: John Bentley

Phone: 9743 3819

Web: www.fmbg.org.au

Email: friends@fmbg.org.au

June FMBG Meeting Report

Our guest speaker was Ken Walker. He talked about native bees, including bee and bug hotel construction. He told us that the European Bee was introduced to Australia in 1822. This was because our native bees are mainly pollinating bees and not honey producing bees.

He showed us how the pollen was transferred from one flower to another. Different bees, long-tongued and short-tongued, something I didn't know, use different methods to reach the nectar.

Also. If one has the ability, they can build a bee hotel, a figure of speech, to house these bees. I enjoyed Ken's talk and I hope everyone had the same feeling.

Les and Elaine

Bird Report by Geraldine Kelly

May

'Hi everyone

Did my Tuesday survey of the Botanic Gardens this afternoon a bit too wet this morning, and saw two Swans swimming over near where they usually nest but they did do a circuit of the lake while I was there. I also saw a white bird with long black legs and its head tucked under its wing. I think it was a Royal Spoonbill or a Great Egret. Also large numbers of Wood Duck and Chestnut Teal, also 1 Straw-necked Ibis. It was a productive walk.

Geraldine 19th May

June

Did my normal survey as well as the Snipe control survey this morning no snipe as expected. The swans were back and 1 was busy building the nest in the same reed bed as before the other one was swimming around the island making sure there was no danger. We also saw a kookaburra being harassed by wattlebirds and a Willie Wagtail. There were also 3 Straw-necked Ibis, 2 male Darter, a Little Pied Cormorant, a Hoary-headed Grebe as well as the usual wood Ducks, Coots, Dusky Moorhen and Purple Swamphen. A very interesting morning.

Geraldine 9th June

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, 2nd and 4th Sunday

10am-noon or other times by appointment

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery

21 Williams Street, Melton

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

Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens

Some decorative succulents

Price increases

Forestry tubes \$2, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

Eucalyptus Arboretum

These photos taken at the Eucalyptus Arboretum are a reflection of the great variety of 'Gumtrees' in our country. It also graphically illustrates the success of plantings here, despite the relatively short history of the arboretum!



Australian Plants Society Geelong Group Visit Saturday 20th June

It was a pretty cool day which included a cold wind, showers and finally sunshine. We had morning tea, a tour of the garden and lunch together. With great company, a sizeable donation to FMBG from APS Geelong and plant sales it was a very successful day. Many thanks to FMBG members who helped.



APS Geelong - Morning tea on arrival



Having lunch together



Some of the group looking at the eucalypts



Barb Pye explaining WA planting techniques



We have new stock of a great book for those interested in native plants. On sale at the FMBG Nursery at \$15 for FMBG members and \$20 for non-members

New Maps for the Melton Botanic Garden

We will have 2 large maps installed in two locations for visitors to orient themselves in the garden.



Many thanks to Sign Perfection for adjusting the maps for printing and producing the signs. Also to Mike Smith & Associates and Lena for doing the artwork. Thanks also to Melton City Council for funding one of the maps.

Membership

Membership fees are due by 30 June 2015

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

We welcome all our new members and your membership helps support the development of the botanic garden and we hope you can participate in our activities.

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 had 206 members in 2011-2012 and 218 members in 2013/14. **In 2014/15 we have achieved our greatest financial membership total ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. Well done everyone.**

Please help to sign up a new member to 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 on 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form



Map signage board with undercoating. Thanks to Dave Peters for making the structure and to Phil and the Work Experience Activity Team for installing it. This board is opposite the public car park.

FMBG Corporate Members 2014/15

Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

2 Holland Drive, Melton, VIC 3337
Phone: (03) 9971 4444
www.alanmancenissan.com.au

Aquarium Leasing Specialists

Manager: John Candy
Phone: 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338
aquarium@westnet.com.au

Callea Pearce Lawyers

MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
BACCHUS MARSH: 127 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh.
5367 2283
WERRIBEE: Ballan House, 1 Duncans Road, Werribee.
8742 6162
Web: www.calleapearce.com.au

Everite Garden Supplies

19 Melton Valley Drive
Melton Victoria
Phone: 9743 6021
office@everitegs.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

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, Vic. 3337
Phone: (03) 9743 5033
Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

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

Melton Toyota

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

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

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

Satellite City Furniture

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

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Phone: (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)
	Dave Peters
	Anne Langmaid
	Jen Eldridge
Safety Officer:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

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



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) / 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



New sign beside the Lake