



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter Spring 2016

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 43

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Join us at our meeting venue

Botanica Springs Community Centre

249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield VIC 3338

Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

October Meeting

Neutrog Presentation

Find out about Neutrog products and may be receive a free sample

November Meeting

Wayne Long presenting on South African Plants

More info contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733



FMBG Patron

Jane Edmanson OAM



Category Winner

Keep Victoria Beautiful
Sustainable Cities Awards
2013 and 2016

sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV



FMBG Committee Meeting

The Committee Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Monday 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
- **Sandgroppers:** 2nd & 4th Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

Keep Victoria Beautiful

Sustainability Cities Awards 2016

Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award

A joint project between Melton City Council and Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden trialling the use of compost in the Southern African Beds won the Resource Recovery and Waste Management award.

Melton City Council's Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre also won the award for Environmental Sustainability.



Sharon Vis, Steve & Ella Parker and Cr Nola Dunn

Dame Phyllis Frost award

Council's Senior Land Management Officer, Tony Herwerth, was also awarded the prestigious Dame Phyllis Frost award for his outstanding environmental leadership.



Tony Herwerth

In total, nine Melton City Council and City of Melton community submissions were named as finalists in the 2016 KVB Sustainable Cities Awards, also qualifying our City as a finalist in the Sustainable City of the Year Award.

Here's a congratulations by email from the Secretary of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens:

'Well done to you and Melton BG on your award at KAV Sustainable Communities, over the weekend, for resource recovery and waste management, using the recycled green waste to grow Southern African plants. It is good to see your achievements being recognised.'

Best wishes
Elizabeth Gilfillan

Aloe arborescens

Flowers of *Aloe arborescens* in Southern African section of MBG



MCC SHARE Event

Here are some of the photos taken for the MCC SHARE event.



Photos taken by Shawn Smits a local professional photographer who lives in Toolern Vale. He has a good eye for taking great photos

MCC SHARE event

More photos



Planet Ark National Tree Day

An excellent National Tree Day planting activity with 2nd and 3rd Melton District Scouting Groups and FMBG volunteers. We had wonderful winter sunshine.

Thanks to Western Water and Melton Toyota for sponsoring the Indigenous People's Garden. Well done everyone. 29 total!



*Mike Smith and Alan Partridge planting an advanced *Allocasuarina littoralis**



Lots of planting activity

Volunteers from Ahmadiyya Muslim Association helping at National Tree Day

On National Tree Day we were assisted by a group of volunteers from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association. They really enjoyed their visit and the planting activity.



Jean pointing out the features of the garden



Latham's Snipe at Ryans Creek

Getting excited that spring is here? Not the football finals but the arrival of Latham's Snipe. May be join us on our Latham's Snipe surveys along Ryans Creek.

Ryans Creek is a valuable resting place for the snipe as they migrate between southern Australia and northern Asia!

Work along Ryans Creek northern section has been timed to coincide with the Snipes' breeding season in Siberia and Japan

Grow the Garden Day

At Grow the Garden Day in July we finished planting the Boomerang Garden Bed. Lovely sunshine but a bit windy. Thanks everyone who helped. This garden compliments the Aboriginal murals and the Ceremonial Circle.



Photos from the Garden

Luba Bradford took some photos in the garden and posted them on Facebook saying:

'I think I'll live at the gardens'



River Red Gums in the Main Lake



Is this a hare frozen in time?

Work Experience Activity Team

There is a small Mediterranean garden bed with rock edging and planted with Rosemary thanks to our work experience activity team.



Mediterranean garden bed near the Depot

Visit to the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

Some FMBG members went to a talk by Dr Sandy-Lynn Steenhuisen, University of Cape Town, Dept of Biological Sciences, South Africa on "Scents which attract different pollinators in the Proteaceae family". The event was hosted by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne at the Elliot Centre. We got to network with Cranbourne Friends, gardens staff and make Southern African connections plus we got to look around the Growing Friends Nursery.



FMBG visitors with Alex Smart

Alex Smart is well remembered in the Western Region for his environmental work here.



Cranbourne Friends Nursery

NAIDOC Week Garden Tour

Bushfoods morning tea set out for our visitors on the MBG NAIDOC Week Garden Tour. Many thanks to all the FMBG volunteers who helped, to Sally at MCC for providing the morning tea and to Joanne for the Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country.

A wonderful morning and the walk was in glorious winter sunshine.



Banksia blechnifolia getting to ready to flower in the Sensory Garden.

This is a ground cover Banksia.



The Bushfoods Garden Gabion wall taking shape



The Bushfoods Garden project is being done by our Matchworks Work Experience Activity Team

Google Satellite

Google maps satellite image of the MBG taken early June 2016. This shows the new paths in Bushfoods Garden and the work beginning on the north section of Ryans Creek.



Western and South Australian flowers

Western Australian and South Australian Display Bed in flower. There will be much more in flower in coming weeks so come along and have a look.



Rhodanthe chlorocephala

When you can't afford to go to WA just come along to the MBG for a similar plant experience.

Southern African Plants in Flower



Bulbine Lily in Botanic Garden



Pelargonium splendide

Pelargonium splendide is in the Southern African Garden Aloe and Succulent beds and sometimes for sale in the Nursery.

There are two indigenous *Pelargonium*s commonly found around Melton (in what is left of our native grasslands and along our creeks). These are Magenta Storksbill (*P. rodneyanum*) and Austral *Pelargonium* (*P. australe*), illustrating the similarity between Australian and Southern African plants. Africa, Australia and South America were once joined together as the supercontinent of Gondwana (along with New Zealand and India), illustrated by close similarities in both plants and wildlife.

Some Aloes that have now been planted in the Southern African Garden



Eucalyptus youngiana in Bloom



The Pyes bedside Eucalypts youngiana



Eucalypts youngiana (yellow form)

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, 2nd and 4th Sunday 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
Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens
Some decorative succulents

Prices: Forestry tubes \$3, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

August AGM

We have some new members on the Committee. We said thanks for many years of service as Secretary to Janet Dyke and also Margaret Peters as Treasurer. The Treasurer's position is vacant and we would like someone to take on this role. Platinum Accounting and Taxation one of our Corporate Members has very kindly agreed to enter the transaction in MYOB, produce reports and submit our BAS.

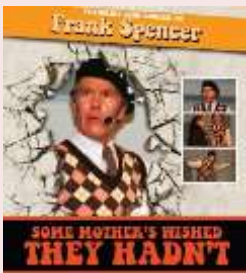
Your Executive Committee

President:	John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Treasurer:	John Bentley (interim)
Secretary:	Barbara Frampton
Assistant Secretary:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Committee members:	Jill Bentley (9743 3819) Sarah Baldacchino Steve Parker Jen Eldridge
Safety Officers:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
Admin Manager:	Janet Dyke
Nursery Manager:	Margaret Cook
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

Welcome to our new Corporate Members

Bunker Entertainment and Australian Hearing Melton.

We are very pleased they have joined FMBG and look forward to their continued support in helping to build the botanic garden. In turn you may also like to support them and our other Corporate Members. Mention you are member of FMBG and you may receive a discount.



Above & Beyond Photography

Brad from Above & Beyond Photography has been taking overhead videos and photos of the Melton Botanic Garden with his drone.



Drone Photo Sunday 18 September 2016

Brad says: *Above & Beyond Photography, is a business spawned from an interest in seeing the world from a different angle, above the horizon and beyond the boundaries limiting traditional photography.*

What began as boyish adventure and thrill of piloting a remote control device, challenging the laws of gravity and taking to the skies, developed into the desire to make my photographs stand out from the crowd.

Capturing stunning images from above was something with high cost but can now be done from almost any location at a fraction of the cost.

My first experience with aerial photography was many years ago, arranging for photographs to be taken of the family farm, as a present for my father. This photo hangs proudly on his wall today. Since then the introduction and uptake of drone technology has enabled people like myself to provide that same enjoyment and pleasure for a much greater population.

Being able to turn my passion of flight into images for other people to enjoy is something which brings me great pleasure. Many of these images and videos can be seen via my Facebook Page "Above & Beyond Photography", for continued updates of images and videos please 'Like' my page.

If you wish to discuss the many differing options of having your own property or events captured from the air, simply send a Facebook message, via the Above & Beyond page, or an FB text message and Brad would be more than happy to help you achieve that special moment

Membership

Membership fees due by 30 June 2016

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 also Denmark. 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 achieved our greatest total of financial memberships ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. However, in 2015/16 we tallied up and reached a total of 263 memberships!**

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

FMBG can give presentations to groups and 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 be able to find us

FMBG Corporate Members 2016/17

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, 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338
aquarium@westnet.com.au

Australian Hearing - Melton Branch

Contact: Lana Briers, Hearing Advisor, 8099 6900
Shop R04 Woodgrove Shopping Centre, Melton VIC 3337
www.hearing.com.au

Bunker Entertainment

John Bunker, 0409 100 532
Email: info@frankspencer.net web: www.frankspencer.net

Callea Pearce Lawyers

MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
BACCHUS MARSH: 127 Main Street, 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 / Email: office@everitegs.com.au

go2 Finance Services

Manager: Tabatha Vella, 03 9746 6772 / 0477 466 622
10 Micasa Place, Melton West VIC 3337
Email tabatha@go2finance.net.au
web: www.go2finance.net.au

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, Vic. 3337
Managers: Scott, Brad & Ken Morton (03) 9743 5033

Melton Produce

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

Melton Toyota

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

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

Manager: Corinne Cole, (03) 9746 6479
9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337
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, Phone: (03) 9747 0855
Web: www.westernland.com.au

Woodlea - 1300 966 3520

25 Woodlea Boulevard, Rockbank, Victoria 3335
Woodlea Sales Office Open daily 10am – 5pm