



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

*Growing Plants Growing People*

Winter-Spring 2017

No. 44

## FMBG Monthly Meeting

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Botanica Springs Community Centre 249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield VIC 3338.

### Upcoming meetings:

#### October Meeting:

11th Oct: Guest speaker Leigh Goodwin talking about Bonsai & members are welcome to bring their own bonsai plants

#### November Meeting:

8th Nov: Cathy Powers on the topic of Grasslands

#### December Meeting:

13th Dec: End of year BBQ held at the MBG Depot 6:30pm.

## Upcoming Events:

### September:

22<sup>nd</sup> Friday: 6:30pm FMGB

Social Dinner

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Grow the Garden Day

### October:

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Clean-up Day

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Grow the Garden Day

### November:

11<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Djerriwarrh Festival - FMBG Stall and Plant Sale

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Field trip –

Lara & Kevin Hoffman Walk

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Grow the Garden Day

## National Tree Day 2017

On Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of July the Friends hosted a National Tree Day



event at The Melton Botanic Garden. Although it was a chilly morning the day was very successful with over 700 plants planted and an amazing 170 people attending the event, included FMBG volunteers, scouts, Muslims for Peace and other members

of the public.

The Friends group was joined by The 1<sup>st</sup> Caroline Springs Scout Group who turned up in great numbers some of who dressed up for the occasion in fun themed head pieces and garden inspired hair dos and others with brightly coloured hair.



National Tree Day 2017 was a great fun day, which enriched the Melton Botanic Garden immensely. Some of the plantings included 378 *Poa labillardieri*, 162 *Lomandra longifolia*, 108 *Dianella revoluta* var *brevicaulis* and 45 *Correa glabra*.



Thank you to everyone that participated in and organised the day this year. Thanks especially to Janet Dyke for organising the running of the day, Elaine Neely and Tony Dyke for organising and serving refreshments

at the rotunda, all the planting supervisors. A big thank you to FMBG



Corporate Member Melton Toyota who supported the buying and planting by donating \$250 for plants and providing a National Tree Day Pack of t-shirts, stakes and guards.

## Friends Ahoy

### Help Build the Garden – Regular Activity Groups:

- **Gumnuts:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Lakers:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tues 9:30am-noon
- **Creekers:** Thurs  
9:30am-noon
- **Safaris:** Tues 9:30am-noon
- **Sandgropers:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Weds 9:30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every  
Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Every  
Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

### FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

21 Williams St Melton

**Open** 10am – 1pm every Tuesday & Thursday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month or by appointment.

**Stocking** a range of native plants grown in the Melton Botanic Garden including Eremophila and Eucalyptus. Plants suited to growing in dry conditions in Melton gardens. Some decorative succulents.

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

If you have been walking by the lake at the Melton Botanic Garden you may have noticed a bright yellow boat travelling from the shore to the island in the middle of the lake.



The boat, appropriately named 'The Yellow Peril', is being used to revegetate the island to make it a bird sanctuary.

John B, Jill, Linda, Daryl, Milan, John S, Yos, Elaine

and Geraldine have all been working hard removing weeds from the island in preparation of new plantings.

The plants will provide a safe haven for the beautiful birds that call the Botanic Garden home and for those that like to visit. The boat was pulled across to the island by the very helpful Elaine and safety officer Dave P. All arrived safe with life jackets on just in case.



The Yellow Peril was lucky enough to be blessed by Father Geoff, a local Catholic priest, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August.

Tuesday morning Father Geoff performed a blessing on the bright yellow boat asking for protection for all who will ride across to the island. All the attendees sang

Michael Row the Boat Ashore; although John rowed the boat ashore would have been more fitting.

After the blessing and singing there was a morning tea and a nice warm tea and coffee. Then back to work.



## Contact FMBG

**Email:**  
friends@fmbg.org.au

**Phone:**  
John or Jill Bentley on  
03 9743 3819

**Mail:**  
Friends of the Melton  
Botanic Garden, Inc.  
PO Box 2381, Melton  
South, 3338

**Online:**  
www.fmbg.org.au

## Follow FMBG

### Facebook:

MeltonBotanicGarden  
Melton-Botanic-Garden-  
Plant-Nursery-and-Depot

### Instagram:

Melton Botanic Garden  
@melton\_bg

### Twitter:

MeltonBotanicGarden  
@Melton\_BG

Please post **photos** of the  
Melton Botanic Garden and  
tag the picture with an @  
and the relevant social  
media name.

# NAIDOC Week 2017

FMBG were pleased participate in the NAIDOC Week celebrations this year, which are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Friends hosted a tour of the indigenous plantings around the garden including the Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Usage Garden and Bush Foods Garden, showcasing native Australian plants that have been used for food, basket weaving and other ingenious uses by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Also included in the tour was an explanation of The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, painted on the outer wall of the public toilets near the lake, which represents all the language, tribal or nation groups of the Aboriginal people of Australia.



After a tour of the Botanic Garden the friends provided a bush food themed morning tea. Show casing some pre-packaged bush foods that can be purchased in supermarkets and online shops.

## Amphitheatre and Green Wall

The Melton Botanic Garden now boasts an impressive new Amphitheatre with a green wall as the backdrop to the stage. The project was built by the hard work of the Matchworks Work Experience Activity Team, and planted by the team and a few FMBG volunteers.

The Amphitheatre is a great entertainment space, suitable for getting married, commitment renewals, playing the cello, making a speech or simply proclaiming your love for the garden. We have a place to do it all at the Melton Botanic Garden.



On National Tree Day it was wonderful to see 1st Caroline Springs Scouts using the amphitheatre for presentations by the scout leaders.



## FMBG Membership

Become a member of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden!

Or renew your membership.

We welcome all members old and new. The support through memberships greatly helps in the development of the garden and you can choose to participate in activities.

### Cost of membership:

Single \$10

Student/Concession \$5

Household \$20

Household Concession \$10

Associate \$20

Corporate \$50

The membership forms are available at [www.fmbg.org.au](http://www.fmbg.org.au) and can be paid via direct bank transfer to FMBG.

**Account Name:** Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

**BSB:** 033-121

**Account Number:** 20-8503

Please ensure your name appears under the transaction details. In addition please submit the form or email to [friends@fmbg.org.au](mailto:friends@fmbg.org.au)

Forms can also be collected from the depot at the garden or at events attended by FMBG.

Members can also request forms to pass out to potential new recruits.

For **membership information** or to drop in a payment please contact **Jill Bentley** on **03 97433819**.

If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form.

## Grow the Garden

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is dedicated to Grow the Garden days where volunteers work hard planting many plants to improve the MBG. August's Grow the Garden was a very cold weather day but it did not



stop the diehard growers and they managed to plant 162 grasses in less than an hour! Although a record time they did have the help of the Power Planter, which was the true MVP on the day.

The team luckily finished just before the rain came in and they got to enjoy a

well-deserved hot cuppa.

All are welcome to join in on Grow the Garden days, and it involves all types of jobs not just physical work, people are needed to hand out plants, help with morning tea, 'supervise' or be delightful company.



## Mediterranean Garden

The newest addition to the MBG is the construction and planting of the Mediterranean Garden, the garden is starting to take shape around the new Amphitheatre.

The Matchworks Team are doing a great job in building this part of the garden. The team are preparing to plant out the garden in the following months, after all the ground works are done.



The first tree planted in the new Mediterranean Garden was a *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine), a pine native to the Mediterranean region. Mostly used for the tree's fine timber, the resin of the Aleppo pine is also used to flavour the Greek wine retsina.



# Guided Tours

## Book a Guided Tour:

To book a Guided Tour around the Melton Botanic Garden please contact John Bentley on 9743 3819.

The tours can be adjusted to suit groups including the time of the tour and also amount of walking involved.

A guided tour is a fantastic way to experience the ever growing Melton Botanic Garden led by an FMBG volunteer. The Friends host many guided tours each month for all types of groups.

Here are some photos of recent groups to have a tour of the Garden.

A group from Burwood retirement village taking a guided tour on the morning of Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.



## FMBG 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:** Anne Langmaid

**FMBG Librarian:** Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

A tour of the Garden hosted for the lovely folk from the Ballarat Field Naturalists group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.



## Photos from Around the Garden



Photos taken by Grevillea Nursery of the Melton Botanic Garden, and shared on Facebook.



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden





# FMBG Corporate Members

**Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi:** [www.alanmancenissan.com.au](http://www.alanmancenissan.com.au)

**AM Dental Clinics – Melton:** [www.facebook.com/amdentalclinics](http://www.facebook.com/amdentalclinics)

**Aquarium Leasing Specialists:** [aquarium@westnet.com.au](mailto:aquarium@westnet.com.au)

**Australian Hearing:** [www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)

**Bacchus Marsh Farm Supplies:** [www.bacchusmarshfarmsupplies.com.au](http://www.bacchusmarshfarmsupplies.com.au)

**Bunker Entertainment:** [www.frankspencer.net](http://www.frankspencer.net)  
[info@frankspencer.net](mailto:info@frankspencer.net)

**Callea Pearce Lawyers:** [www.calleapearce.com.au](http://www.calleapearce.com.au)

**Central Garden Supplies:** [office@everitegs.com.au](mailto:office@everitegs.com.au)

**Edible Eden Design:** [www.edibleedendesign.com](http://www.edibleedendesign.com)

**go2 Finance Services:** [www.go2finance.net.au](http://www.go2finance.net.au)  
[tabatha@go2finance.net.au](mailto:tabatha@go2finance.net.au)

**Goldfields Revegetation:** [goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au](http://goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au)  
[info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au](mailto:info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au)

**Hexima:** [hexima.com.au](http://hexima.com.au)

## Melton Produce

**Melton Timber & Hardware Home Hardware**

**Melton Toyota:** [www.meltontoyota.com.au](http://www.meltontoyota.com.au)

**Phillip Johnson Landscapes:** [www.phillipjohnson.com.au](http://www.phillipjohnson.com.au)

**Platinum Accounting and Taxation:** [www.platinumaccounting.com.au](http://www.platinumaccounting.com.au)  
[info@platinumaccounting.com.au](mailto:info@platinumaccounting.com.au)

**Satellite City Furniture & Bedding:** [www.satellitecityfurniture.com.au](http://www.satellitecityfurniture.com.au)  
[paulkelly@satellitecityfurniture.com.au](mailto:paulkelly@satellitecityfurniture.com.au)

**Western Land Services P/L:** [www.westernland.com.au](http://www.westernland.com.au)

**Woodlea:** [www.woodlea.com.au](http://www.woodlea.com.au)