

FMBG Achievements 2015



- Awards
 - “Best Community Enterprise Business” Westwaters Hotel City of Melton Business Excellence Awards
 - “Victorian Compost User Demonstrating Innovation and Advocacy in Amenity Markets” Australian Organics Recycling Association
- New Projects:
 - Lake Island
 - Indigenous Peoples Garden (District Scout project - \$2,000 Western Water sponsorship)
 - Southern African and a new group “Safaris” to undertake development and maintenance
 - Commenced production and installation of Plant Labels in the Eucalyptus Arboretum
- Commenced the Southern African Garden – Landscape plans, plant lists, construction and Trial Bed planting as a result of the Metro Organics Grant
- Western Australian and South Australian Gardens - Construction of beds and first plantings in stage 1 of this area.
- Completed the Sensory Garden with installation of seats
- Acacia Walk bench seating, new paths and Gabion structures – Matchworks Work Experience Activity Team projects
- Melton City Council Budget – increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000 in budget funds towards the development of the Melton Botanic Garden
- Links and Partnerships:
 - Scouts – Indigenous People’s Garden Project
 - Aboriginal Men’s Group
 - Utsav Malayalee Samaj group
 - Melbourne Water – Lake Overflow restoration project
 - Melton City Council – Ryans Creek North Pond Wetlands
 - Metro Organics – Southern African Garden
 - MCC Application for Interface Growth Fund – Botanic Trail
- Good feedback on the gardens from visitors
- Visitors:
 - Guided Tours – group visits increased (visits by Groups/Individuals 2014=14, 2015=34)
 - Karl Noldan, Curator at Wellington Botanic Garden, New Zealand
 - John Arnott, Manager of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Cranbourne
 - Attila Kapitany, past president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Australia and author
 - Tim Entwistle, CEO and Director, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
 - Jane Edmanson,
 - Ken Mansell, past president of the Australian Inland Botanical Gardens
 - Dr Dean Nicole, Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia
- Research – Material Collection and Study:
 - La Trobe University, Bruce McGinness, Department of Biochemistry
 - Melbourne University, Dr Jason Goodger, Senior Researcher School of Botany
 - Charles Sturt University, NSW: Duan Luyang, PhD student
- Increase in Donations and Bequests
- Donations:
 - APS Maroondah Group – WASA
 - Other APS groups and other groups



- Grants:
 - Melton City Council - Picnic tables
 - The Club/Melton City Council – Split system heating/cooling at Depot
 - Melbourne Water – Lake Island Bird Sanctuary Project
 - CVGT Community Grant for seating in the Sensory Garden
- Bird Watching:
 - Latham Snipe surveys
 - Melton Environment Group partnership
 - Bird Week
 - Regular weekly recorded bird observations
 - More visitors for bird watching
- Sustainability:
 - Increase in green waste bins
 - Use of MCC green waste compost in the garden
 - Increase in hand weeding as opposed to chemical use
- Smooth transition from CVGT to Matchworks for the Work Experience Activity and moved to 5 days per week of activity for unemployed people
- Schools – talk to 400 students at Coburn Primary School and increased school activities in the garden. MeltonGO! 2 day program at the MBG in term 3 school holidays.
- Strengthening relationship with Melton City Council including Melton Visitor Information Centre
- Promotion:
 - New MBG brochure and a new FMBG flyer
 - New Southern African Garden brochure developed and printed with MCC
 - Increase in radio promotion
 - More connections with media
 - Costa (ABC Gardening Australia) at the BGANZ Congress mentioned the FMBG volunteers in the first Keynote presentation
 - Raised profile with Melton Visitor Information Centre
 - MBG maps printed for visitor use using the new map produced in-kind by Mike Smith & Associates
 - Horticultural and Gardening Festival stall
 - Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show and increased display space
 - Increased presentations to groups (2014=7, 2015=14)
- Large Map signs installed in the garden by FMBG
- Nursery:
 - Additional Sunday sales days
 - Increase in plant sales
 - More volunteers on Nursery team
 - Propagation
 - Increased infrastructure, benches, bus shelters, ground covering (topping)
 - Niche plants events
 - Eucalyptus Arboretum Native plants promoted
- Purchased new equipment of higher quality: Brush cutters and mowers
- Depot Improvements: Lining internal walls
- Updated MYOB
- Resilience of FMBG

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