

# FMBG April News 2008

We are progressing in our meetings with Council Officers towards development of the Melton Botanic Garden.

## 1) Landscape Design Brief and Memo of Understanding (MOU)

Melton Shire Council (MSC) have now drafted an MOU between Council and the Friends Group. This MOU relates to the Landscape Design project only.

MSC committed \$25,000 towards landscape design in the 07/08 budget. Rodney Thomas MSC is drafting a Landscape Design Brief for consultants based on information we supplied from the concept plan development. Hopefully this brief should be ready mid April to be distributed for comment by the FMBG representatives and FMBG executive.

FMBG will then meet with MSC to discuss the drafts.

## 2) Re-vegetation and Enhancement of Ryans Creek in the Melton Botanic Garden area.

Quite a number of members are keen to start planting in the botanic garden. Main garden bed plantings cannot be started until we have the landscape design and then only when work is commenced on the beds. However, we have been given permission to restore and enhance the major indigenous section of the garden along Ryans Creek. This section will be a showpiece in the Botanic Garden for indigenous vegetation - so it is good news that this can be commenced.

MSC have said that in relation to plantings along Ryans Creek, Tony Herwerth and Rodney Thomas are happy for us to undertake this work as long as the Group is insured (which we are) and that species planted are indigenous to the area. Tony is able to provide further assistance in relation to which species are suitable and where the group can obtain plants.

MSC don't have any spare plants available as all have been committed to various projects well in advance. Under normal circumstances MSC don't provide plants to community groups unless it is through a joint grant that MSC have applied for e.g. Melbourne Water 'Corridors of Green' grants.

Tony and Rodney are happy to provide technical advice to us in relation to grant funding applications e.g. Adopt a Park grants or Melbourne Water funding.

This is a great opportunity for us to commence planting using indigenous species which we perhaps can look to purchase from our funds, request special donations or grants. Our funds this year have greatly increased through some of the fantastic fundraising efforts by FMBG members.

## **PLEASE NOTE THESE OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS:**

### **APRIL MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday 9th April - this month Dave and Barb Pye will show and tell what plants are flowering this month and the next - not to be missed - they have a great native garden in Bullangarook with some spectacular plants. 7.30pm Community Room, Woodgrove Shopping Centre.

### **CLEAN-UP DAY**

Sunday 13th April 10am-12noon Melton Botanic Garden - Meet at rotunda in Town Centre Park near Darlingsford.

### **DIGGERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL MARKET DAY**

Saturday 12th April 9am - 2pm - FMBG stall for fundraising and promotion. If you are able to help with either plants that can be sold or can help on the stall (even for a short time) please contact Margaret on 53 67 3328 or Jill on 9743 3819

John Bentley  
President FMBG