

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

October 2008

What's On?

8th October Wednesday

Monthly Meeting 7.30 pm

Guest Speaker is Graeme Woods on Grevilleas – He is an expert - Community Room Woodgrove Woodgrove Shopping Centre.

9th October Thursday 9.30 am

Plant Preparation.

Meet at Margaret Peter's place to help prepare plants for the Platypus Festival. Margaret Peters (5367 3328).

12th October Sunday 10.00 am Clean Up Day and Water Monitoring.

Meet at Rotunda – Lakeside Boulevard. Mikala Peters water bug sampling.

26th October Sunday 9.00 am

Field Trip - Ballarat and Bunninyong Botanic Gardens tour. Meet at car park Melton Shire Offices. We will leave at 9am.

November

8th Saturday Djerriwarrh Festival

Parade and stall

12th Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting Show & Tell Night

"Botanic Gardens that have impressed you"
Bring along photos, information and mementos of Botanic Gardens you have visited. Tell us or just show us your great experiences.

Melton Botanic Garden Developments Meet the Graphic Designer on-site to see the latest plans and ideas

You are invited to meet Matthew Smith (and other consultants) Friday 17th October at 3pm to walk around and discuss themes and graphic options and the Friends' expectations for about 1 to 1.5 hours. We may then go back to the Council offices for the presentation of the layout plans.

Here is another chance to have your say in the design of the Melton Botanic Garden.

Ryans Creek Revegetation Project

We have finally planted all our plants, about 3,000 of them. No more planting until about May next year. We need to start clearing more of the area of the carpet weeds and watering the plants.

Allan Benson is working with Tony Herwerth to get the plant orders in now for next year. I think I have never looked this far ahead for a plant, normally I just pop into a nursery and pick up one up [ed.].

September Meeting – What's flowering in your garden?

A really great night where members presented cuttings of what was flowering in their garden. An amazing array of colours, textures and smells in the wealth of plants that were displayed.



What's flowering in Janet's garden

Photo: John Bentley

No Growing the Garden Days in October as we are getting plants ready for sale and having a bus trip.

Exciting Clean-up Day Coming Up

Mikala Peters is attending our Clean-up Day on Sunday 12th October at 10am to conduct with us invertebrate water quality monitoring (water bug testing). This means scooping up things out of the water and checking what is alive to see what the quality of the water is by examining the life forms present (no jumping in!)

Membership

Single - \$10

Single concession or student -\$5

Household/Concession - \$20/\$10

Corporate - \$50

Please call Jill 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form.

Membership count just over 100 new or renewed members since July 1 this year. Great effort, please keep on recruiting. It is looking good for our grant applications.

Grants Update

We have applied for around \$15,000 in grants to help support our activities and 2009 plantings in the Melton Botanic Garden. Thanks to Allan Benson for his great efforts here in getting the contact, information and signature for the grants. Jill is also working on a volunteer grant of around \$5,000.

Janet, John, Allan and Jill went to a breakfast launch of \$10million in grants for the Werribee Plains. We presented an idea for a project to the meeting of water harvesting from the Melton Industrial Estate to provide water to grow the Melton Botanic Garden. Max Costa from Melbourne Water is trying to promote our project to MSC and other interested parties.

Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings 13th September Saturday

What a wonderful activity this turned out to be – Sunny (and windy), great crowds, fantastic BBQ team and a marvellous profit. It was a great team effort, we managed to hold it all together and fight off the elements (at least the wind!).

This was a major fundraising event and we made a profit after expenses of \$1450.

Special thanks to Margaret and Jill for being the main organisers and action women to make this happen. Lynette did a sterling job on the raffle.

Thanks to everyone who was involved (no special order): David, Suzy, Elisabeth, Aaron, Verna, Allan, Margaret, Denise, Jill, Janet, Don, John, Lynette, Alan, Jean, and Tushan.

Spring Launch at Bunnings 4th October Saturday.

This was a major promotion event. Many thanks to Margaret, Verna and Lynette for organising and all those who helped out.

Social Dinner

Another great night was had by all at the FMBG social dinner at the Melton Club on Friday 26th September. Great to meet other members, to share stories and find out more about each other. Thanks to Lynette Rehling for organising.

Djerriwarrh Festival Raffle Prize



Main raffle prize for Djerriwarrh Festival
Fuchsia Gum stained glass hanging
Donated by David Shrubshall

To purchase stained glass products contact David at Shrubcat Leadlighting 0403 360 677, mention FMBG to receive a discount or a donation to FMBG. See: www.myspace.com/shrubcatleadlighting

Propagate for Djerriwarrh Festival

Last year selling of plants was a major fundraising activity and thanks to many members who propagated plants we had lots to sell. So make sure you are on track to help out and start putting those cutting in or dividing plants. If you need pots contact Margaret Peters (5367 3328). The group also has potting-up days for the many plants we are growing for sale.

We also need many more pots. So please recycle your pots by giving them to Margaret P.

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

The 2009 FMBG calendar is nearly finalised. Look out for it at the Djerriwarrh Festival.

Growing the Garden Days

"Growing the Garden Days" are held on the 2nd Thursday and also 4th Sunday of each month. This allows those who are free weekdays to attend and also provide a weekend activity.

"No Growing Days in October"

Clean-Up Days

"Clean-Up days" are held on the second Sunday of each second month. We will be doing water testing as well. *Next clean-up day is Sunday October 12th.*

Well Spotted by Alan Partridge

The new fold-up Melton map in the Information Centre shows Town Centre Park plus in brackets Proposed Melton Botanic Garden.

Business Cards and Promotion

We have some business cards for handing out at promotional events.

Have you visited the Melton Botanic Garden?

Well this boy has and he looks keen to go again



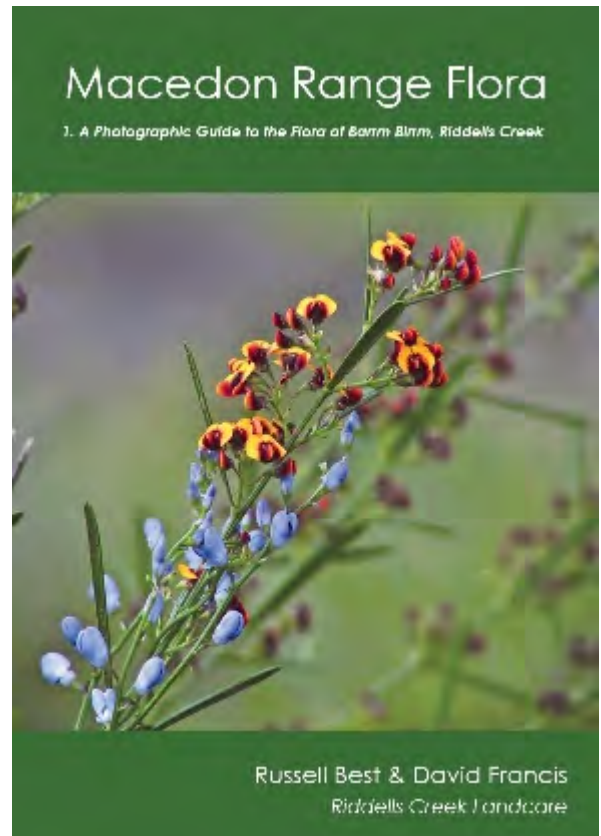
Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Monday 27th October 7.30pm

Macedon Range Flora

FMBG received a complimentary copy of the Flora ID Book Macedon Range Flora: 1. A Photographic Guide to the Flora of Barrm Birrm, Riddells Creek by Russell Best & David Francis Riddells Creek Landcare.

The copy was sent to us by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. We will place this book into our library. Many of the plant species are what we are planting along Ryans Creek (though our are the Melton variety)



The book details all of the 208 native plant species known to exist on the magnificent bushland of Barrm Birrm (the hill that provides the backdrop to Riddells Creek). This amounts to about 40% of the flora found in the Macedon Range and 1/25th of flora of Victoria. It is the most comprehensive book of the Macedon Range flora currently available.

Some features of the book include: 208 plant species covered (including 27 orchids, 14 lilies, 14 wattles, and much more).

The A4 size book has 56 pages packed with information.

There are 493 photos (485 by Riddells Creek Landcare members; 487 photos taken on Barrm Birrm) with maps detailing the location of Barrm Birrm and the extensive walking trails.

It includes many plants not previously known to exist in the Macedon Range. One brand new plant, discovered on Barrm Birrm as part of this project - described for the first time in this book (a new *Stylidium*, Trigger-plant).

There are labels on the photos to highlight key features of the plant or to help explain complex terms. There is a novel and comprehensive section on Eucalypts to help ID these difficult plants.

All variations of each plant species are presented (eg. male, female & bisexual flowers of Early Nancy; blue & white *Wahlenbergia stricta* and the 4, 5, 6 and 7 petalled forms).

The book was funded by a Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority Community Grant, the Australian Plant Society (Victoria), Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Riddells Creek Landcare

Order copies or find out more information and book updates at :
<http://www.riddellscreeklandcare.org.au/>

All proceeds go to Riddells Creek Landcare



Peter's Farewell Expo Tour

October 3 – 5, 2008 - Caulfield Racecourse
We had a great response to our stand at the Expo from visitors and other groups. It was quite a surprise to meet so many people from Melton who had not heard of the Melton Botanic Garden.



Thanks to Margaret and Allan for setting up, packing up and being at the Expo on Sunday. Thanks also to Alan, Jean, Jill, Tushan, John, and Lynette who helped out by being at the FMBG stand.



If you have stories or photographs from activities in the Melton Botanic Garden please send them to:
botanicfriends@fmbg.org.au