

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

April 2009



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What's On?

18th April Saturday Field Trip to CERES

Meet MSC car park 9am.

Contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761

26th April Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

5th May Tuesday 7.30pm Executive Meeting

Bentley's place 9743 3819

Wednesday 13th May 7.30pm

Wild Herbs & Bush Foods

Mystery Guest Speaker

Learn about indigenous foods and perhaps how to cook with them.

There is an indigenous people's and bushfoods garden in the planned Melton Botanic Garden.

Community Room, Woodgrove Shopping Centre, High Street, Melton

Please contact: John or Jill Bentley 97433819

FMBG New Meeting Venue for 2009

Monthly meetings are now held at the DJ Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South (Melways 342 K3) on the second Wednesday night of each month.

There is parking, easy access, good space, kitchen and toilets.

Diggers Rest Houdini Festival

On a warm and dusty Sunday on 29th March the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden were out promoting the Botanic Garden and selling plants in Diggers Rest.

There was a steady flow of people throughout the day. We raised a profit of \$240. A great effort by everyone involved and of course very successful.



Our two gazebos



FMBG Promotional display



Margaret with plants for sale

Landscape Design Plans

The final design submission to MSC is due. The Executive have read the draft report and have copies of the layout and planting plans. These will be at the May meeting.

Grants Update

Max Coster Project Manager of the Vision for Werribee Plains has been in contact with FMBG about a funding agreement. We also wish to prepare a grant for water harvesting and other projects for the Melton Botanic Garden. This is very exciting and is another step to developing the botanic garden.

If you have major industry contacts or know of sources of major funding to develop beds in the botanic garden please tell us. The cost to develop the whole garden and infrastructure on current estimates will be about \$7m.

Where is the Botanic Garden?

The new fold-up Melton map in the Information Centre shows Town Centre Park plus in brackets "Proposed Melton Botanic Garden". Melways 337 C10 has "Tullidge Street Reserve" and the UBD calls the area "Town Centre Park". We need to continue our lobbying to have the whole area called the "Melton Botanic Garden". So get out there and promote the message.

Growing the Garden Days

Another successful Growing the Garden day was held on Sunday 22nd March. Friends undertook some serious weeding at Ryans Creek. More piles of Blanket Weed/Carpet Weed (*Galenia pubescens*) were removed from the northern section to the west of Ryans Creek and along the fence. The February Grow the Garden weeding improved the look of the creek so some members decided the top section should also look more attractive to passers by.



Allan and Jill working on the galenia along the fence line



Bags of galenia



Verna and Janet working away

We were rewarded for all the hard work with a BBQ afterwards at the Botanic Garden BBQs. Thanks to Margaret and Dave for doing the cooking.

"Growing the Garden Days" are held on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday of each month.

We need to focus on weeding in preparation for planting in May.

Why not join us next time to help grow the garden and have fun doing it.

Getting the message out there

John is giving a presentation on 22nd April to the Melton and Bacchus Marsh Australian Plants Society meeting at 7.30 at The Willows. Topic is an overview of Melton Botanic Garden, design and an update of the progress so far. I am sure any FMBG member who wishes to attend the meeting will be most welcome.

If you know any groups who would like a presentation we can organise for someone to speak to them.

We have had invites from the Melton Radio Station to do Desert Island Discs and to go on radio to talk about the Botanic Garden. We need some people to volunteer to go on radio – any takers? Please contact John on 9743 3819.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show at Exhibition Buildings

FMBG displayed the layout plans for the Melton Botanic Garden, photos of the site and the activities of FMBG. Much interest was shown by visitors to the show. Unfortunately the FMBG hanging basket of indigenous plants did not win a prize but many people reported seeing it on display.

Presentation to Melton Shire Council

Representatives of FMBG have been given a timeslot on Monday 6th July being the earliest date we could get to give a brief presentation on the Melton Botanic Garden and where are headed now that the landscape design has been completed.

This is an excellent opportunity to formally meet the new Council as we work together to attain the goal of developing a botanic garden in Melton.

Open Day - September

We are planning an open day the Botanic Garden in September with a free BBQ and tours of the garden.

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

The 2009 FMBG calendar is on the website. You can also pick up a copy at our meetings.

Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

Plants that is! We need you get out and make new plants for FMBG to sell. Starting in spring we will have many events until the end of the year where we will be selling plants.

We also need to re-pot many plants to the next size pots for re-sale. Please look out for our propagation days. This activity is usually once a month on a Thursday. Propagating and selling plants is great fun and a fundraising activity that many Friends groups undertake. It is also a great way to catch up and learn about plants.

If you need pots or have any for us to recycle or to enquire about the propagation days please contact Margaret on 5367 3328.

Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st. Anyone new who joins now will get 14 months membership until 1st July 2010. So this is an opportunity for you to encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We currently have 113 members and 3 corporate members.

Single - \$10

Single concession or student -\$5

Household/Concession - \$20/\$10

Corporate - \$50

New memberships are approved each month at the Executive meeting.

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.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

Logo Design

FMBG are looking for a logo. The last Executive meeting suggested a simple outline sketch of a fuchsia gum (*E. Forrestiana*) in a circle/oval with the label Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden. It was thought a couple of flowers and leaves with a bit of stem would be suitable. There are a couple of Fuchsia gums in the Botanic garden area. Two have died in the last year or two and we hope to be able to plant some more.

The Eucalyptus Arboretum will be a prominent feature in the north section of the Botanic Garden area. It could also be one of the first major areas to be developed. The gum is from WA so this fits in well with our garden themes. It might be fitting that we feature this gum.



Janet Dyke has sketched this Fuchsia Gum from the postage stamp.

Please tell us your thoughts on this logo suggestion.



Other Upcoming Events

Melton and Wyndam Landcare and Friends Forum 2009

We encourage FMBG members to attend.

Wednesday, April 29th Melton Civic Centre, 232 High Street, Melton
5:30pm – 9:00 – (Formal proceeding start at 6:30pm)
RSVP by Friday 17th of April to Sam on 9218 5612.

The Port Phillip and Westernport CMA together with Wyndam City and Melton Shire Councils would like to invite Landcare, 'Friends of' and other volunteer based groups to come together for a night of festivity. This event is being held to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution groups and individuals have made in helping to protect, manage and enhance our natural environment within the Melton and Wyndam Shire area.

Western Treatment Plant Open Weekend

Saturday, 2 May & Sunday 3 May, 2009

10am – 4.30pm. Water Discovery Centre, New Farm Road (Off Geelong Road), Werribee
Melways Ref: 205 E12

Biodiversity Forum - Werribee Plains Regional Sustainability Framework

Thursday 7 May 2009 from 9.30am – 12.30pm (lunch provided)

Melton Municipal Offices, 232 High Street, Melton, VIC 3337

Biodiversity - The Australian Conservation Foundation in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment is pleased to invite you to participate in a Biodiversity Forum to identify regional actions for the protection of biodiversity values in the Werribee Plains.

The program for the Forum will include an overview of biodiversity in the Werribee Plains and workshop sessions to identify what are the gaps, barriers to action and the next steps in the short and medium term?

RSVP: please respond by email or phone to Alan Thatcher, ACF Regional Sustainability Coordinator by Friday 24 April:
Email: a.thatcher@acfonline.org.au
Phone: 03 9345 1133
Mobile: 0417 152 908

Melton Environment Group

Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday 20th May



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