

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter February 2009



What's On?

8th February Sunday 10am – noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch at Botanic Garden Site

Meet at rotunda in Botanic Garden near Darlingsford pedestrian entry to the lake.

11th February Wednesday 6.30pm Monthly Meeting

Walk and BBQ at Botanic Garden Site

12th February Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

22nd February Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

Wednesday 11th February 6.30pm

You're invited to a walk & BBQ at the proposed Melton Botanic Garden.

Guest Speaker Tony Herwerth with a walk and talk on Weed Identification. Sausage/Veggie Burger Sizzle provided. Meet at the Rotunda at Town Centre Park near the lake.

Lakewood Boulevard, off Tullidge Street, Darlingsford - Melway Map 337 C11

Coming along? Please contact: John or Jill Bentley 97433819

1st March Clean Up Australia Day 10am-noon

Meet at rotunda in Botanic Garden near Darlingsford pedestrian entry to the lake. Followed by free BBQ for volunteers at Hannah Watts Park.

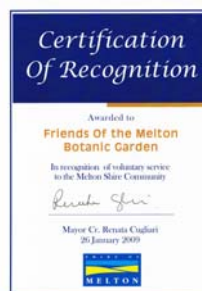
End of Year BBQ 2008

We had a great time at the End of Year BBQ at Verna Reed's Place in December. About 35 members and friends attended. We had lots of raffle prizes and good fun! Myles won the big prize of the accommodation and boating lunch outing at Lakes Entrance.

Thanks to Lynette Rehling for her work throughout 2008 on raffles, getting prizes and sponsorship.

Australia Day Celebration

The Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden were presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Cr. Renata Cugliari at the Shire of Melton Australia Day Celebration.



The certificate is in recognition of voluntary service to the Shire of Melton Community – we were nominated in the Community Group of the Year Award.

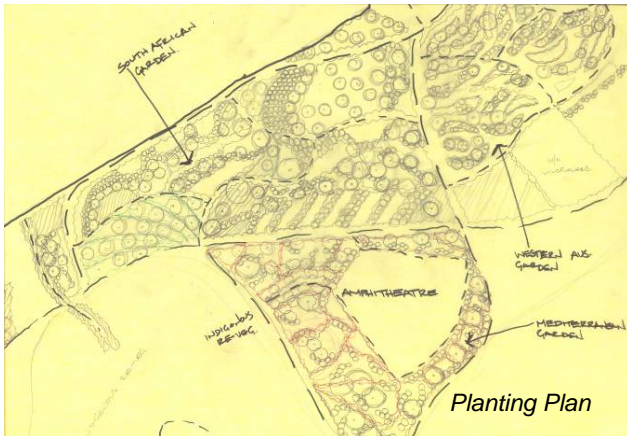
Congratulations to Melton Radio 979fm who won the Community Group of the Year Award and the Melton Environment Group who won the Community Project of the Year Award.

We were also fundraising on Australia Day at Bunnings. The Sausage Sizzle made \$715 clear profit. Thanks to everyone who helped and especially those that stayed at Bunnings so that others could be at The Willows to receive the award.

Landscape Design Plans

In December a number of members and newly elected Shire of Melton Councillor Broden Borg braved a trip across the city to Balwyn to meet with Mike Smith and Associates to discuss ideas for the next iteration of the landscape design. The final design is now just a few weeks away.

The Planting Plan is being developed – see below – this is getting exciting!



Membership

Take the opportunity to renew or join at the FMBG BBQ and Walk around the Melton Botanic Garden on Wednesday 11th February 6.30 pm.

- 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.

Grants Update

Thank you to Allan Benson and Jill Bentley for their work on preparing grant applications in late 2008. Congratulations are now due to them as in January we were informed of the success of all the applications.

1) **Commonwealth Volunteer Grant Program \$3,200** - This grant is for a notebook and projector to train our members in being able to use the equipment and software to prepare and present information. We will use the equipment for our meetings and promotions to other groups. Look out for the training. Please let Jill know if you are interested in joining the program.

2) **Melbourne Water Community Grant - \$12,900** for plants and a 500L water tank (fits on a trailer/ute) towards continuation of the Ryans Creek restoration project.

3) **Melbourne Water Promotion and Development Grant - \$500** to conduct an Open Day promotion at the Botanic Site and free BBQ.

4) **Melbourne Water Support Grant - \$300** to assist in sending out information to FMBG members.

We are further proposing a water harvesting project from the Melton Industrial Estate to provide water to grow the Melton Botanic Garden. This project may involve the installation of a dam and wetland at Tullidge Street on Ryans Creek. This should hold rainwater from industrial rooftops and High Street that flows down the concrete culvert from High Street. Initially we have just submitted a smaller grant to the Vision for Werribee Plains Grants Program for restoration of Ryans Creek and some fencing in the Botanic Garden area.

Rodney Thomas, Environmental Services Coordinator, Melton Shire Council will continue discussing with FMBG Executive other ideas for grant applications from the Vision for the Werribee Plains Grant Program.

Growing the Garden Days

“Growing the Garden Days” are held on the 2nd Thursday and also 4th Sunday of each month. These recommence on Thursday 12th February. This allows those who are free weekdays to attend and also provide a weekend activity. We need to focus on watering and weeding. If everything goes well with the weather and plant ordering we will commence the next planting in May.

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 map 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.

Djerriwarrh Festival Raffle Prize



Congratulations to Cassie who won the Fuchsia Gum.

David Shrubshall has offered to donate another stained glass prize for this year.

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

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

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

Business Cards and Promotion

We have some business cards for handing out at promotional events – Please ask Margaret or Jill if you need some.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 3rd February at 7.30pm – meeting at the Bentley's place.

Do you still want to receive this newsletter?

We are reviewing our membership list and will be removing non-financial members from our email list and newsletter distribution.

You need to ensure you have renewed your membership to continue to receive FMBG emails.



Photo Con Nikakis ©2008



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