



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

February

2010 No.2



Photo John Bentley ©2010

Photo: Eucalyptus Arboretum Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in February

4th Thursday Propagation 10am

Propagation and Potting up at Margaret Peters Place
5367 3328 – See pages 1 and 2.

10th 6.30pm Meeting – Logo Launch and Explore the Garden. Celebrate with a BBQ at the Melton Botanic Garden – See page 3

Meet rotundas – Contact Margaret 5367 3328

11th Thursday and 28th Sunday 10am - noon Grow the Garden

Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

14th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch at Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in March

7th Sunday 10am-noon Keep Australia Beautiful Clean-Up Day at Melton Botanic Garden

10th Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting

Barb Pye: Eremophilas and other plants that can be
propagated for the Botanic Garden

11th Thursday & 28th Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

14th Sunday Field Trip – time tba

Ballarat Botanical Garden & Lambley Nursery

21st Sunday Houdini Festival Diggers Rest FMBG Stall

24th – 28th Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show – Royal Exhibition Buildings FMBG hanging basket on display

26th Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner

Melton Club – Please book with Lynette 9747 9034

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are usually held at the DJ
Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South
(Melways 342 K3) at 7.30pm on the second
Wednesday night of each month.

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

March Meeting Barb Pye Propagation

Eremophila and other plants that
can be propagated for the
Melton Botanic Garden

Wednesday 10th March 7.30pm
DJ Cunningham Centre
Exford Rd, Melton South
Melways 342 K3

Information:

Please contact Jill Bentley 97433819

Vacant Executive Position

The changes in our amended constitution mean
that there is now a vacant ordinary member
executive position. Please let us know if you are
interested in joining the Executive Committee for
a 6 month term.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday
23rd February at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's
place.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

We have to plan for plant sales in March and
throughout the year.

A propagation and potting day is on at Margaret
Peter's place on Thursday 4th February at 10am.
Come along and have fun and help in our
fundraising preparation. Tel: 5367 3328

Support FMBG and help create Sustainable suburbs in the West



Do you want to save money on bills and be more sustainable at home but don't know where to start?

Climate change is now an issue that affects everyone. Sustainable Suburbs is a home improvement program run by councils in the Western Region of Melbourne to help you save money on bills by improving the environmental performance of your home.

This council program offers participants:

- FREE home assessment - water, waste and energy
- FREE information sessions
- FREE light globe and showerhead exchange
- DISCOUNTS on a large variety of quality products and services
- REBATES from state and federal governments
- RELIABLE information that is easy to understand

As a **special offer** for Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens, Envirogroup will donate \$10 for each member who signs up for the free home assessment.

All you have to do is register for your FREE home assessment and select Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens in the "How you heard" field.

Register online at:

www.envirogroup.com.au/sustainablesuburbs

OR call 1300 206 113 and mention "Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens".



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Lakeside Live

This was a good promotional activity for FMBG.

We got to promote the Melton Botanic Garden to Caroline Springs residents, we also met Melton township residents.

Thanks to Margaret, Jill, Bev, Sally and Lynette for assistance at the stall. We made \$67.50 in plant sales.



Photo: Margaret and Bev at the Lakeside Live FMBG table

Bacchus March Leisure Centre Stall

On Saturday 30th January Dave, Jill, Margaret and John promoted the Melton Botanic Garden and plant sales at the Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre. This was not the most successful of days as few people attended.

However, we made some goods contacts. Firstly with the Moorabool U3A group. We are now giving a presentation about the Melton Botanic to them on Wednesday 24th February at 10am. If any members would like attend the presentation please contact Jill Bentley (9743 3819). Secondly we discussed with the Scout Group the possibility of scouts participating in Grow the Garden Days as part of their Landcare badge.



Photo: Jill & Margaret Bacchus Marsh Leisure Centre FMBG stall

Website of the month

This month following on from the offer to FMBG from the Envirogroup to improve sustainability in the west take a look at the website of Australian Conservation Foundation - Green your home and garden.

www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome

Good ideas to save energy, water and reduce waste etc.

Also they are asking: *Do you want to inspire sustainable change in your community? Do you want to learn community facilitation skills and techniques? Do you live in the Wyndham or Melton area in Victoria?*

Answered yes? If so, we encourage you to apply for ACF GreenHome community facilitation training.

Grow the Garden Days

The Grow the Garden Days have been a great success in 2009. We now need to weed and water until we can start planting again in late April or May.

Why not join us at the next Grow the Garden Days in February 2010 – 10am-noon 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday every month.

The weeds in Ryans Creek have gone mad since the December rain and have swamped some areas of the creek. One such weed is the Umbrella Sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) which is a perennial weed of roadside gutters and drains and unfortunately it is doing well in Ryans Creek. It is greenish yellow, a number of plants can be seen in the photo below.



Photo: Umbrella Sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*)

Tony Herwerth the Land Information Officer with the Shire of Melton says "it is a weed, a very aggressive weed. Dig out and bag to prevent seed spreading."

FMBG Logo Launch Wednesday 10th February



Friends of the
Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

We will launch the logo at the February meeting in the Melton Botanic Garden. Don Nardella the State MP for Melton will unveil the logo.

Starts at 6.30pm with a free BBQ, then the launch followed by an exploration of the Melton Botanic Garden with guided tours.

The logo as a whole represents a river red gum and the elements within it depict the interactions between the environment, plants, fauna and people – sun, rain, gum leaf, bird, hand and fork (people activity).

Planning Day

The Planning Day was held on Sunday 17th January Sunday. The Executive Committee met to review the current strategic plan and decide on the strategic direction for FMBG for the next three years. We discussed the achievements of FMBG in 2009, then addressed each item in the Strategic Plan 2009-2012, what we needed to add and delete in the plan plus some brainstorming about projects and activities. We have an action plan showing how we propose to achieve the strategic objectives.

Many thanks to Dave Peters for putting together the new FMBG Strategic Plan 2010-2013. This will be our guiding document for decision making and prioritisation of the activities we undertake. The plan is available on the FMBG website.

Thanks to Janet for taking notes. Thanks to Allan and Bev Benson for hosting the day and providing lunch. Thanks to all Executive Committee for their time in preparation and participating on the day.

Grants

Melbourne Water

The final report was submitted for our 2009 grant in January. Allan, Jill and John met with Susan Burns and Julie from Melbourne Water at Ryans Creek on 22nd January to look at what had been achieved and discuss our 2010 grant plans.

Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP)

We submitted the Second Quarterly Report to V4WP. We completed all our planting as part of this grant by the end of November.

Below is a list of plants we have planted from the V4WP grant in the rehabilitation area of Ryans Creek.

<u>Species Planted</u>	<u>Number</u>
Austro danthonia linkii	600
Calocephalus citreus	500
Carex appressa	120
Carex tereticaulis	1,800
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	500
Danthonia setacea	1,000
Dichanthium sericeum	200
Einadia nutans	280
Eutaxia diffusa	100
Helichrysum rutidoleps	162
Indigofera australis	100
Isolepis nodosa	320
Juncus flavidus	100
Juncus radula	1,000
Linum marginale	36
Poa llabillardieri	540
Total Planted	7,358

Our major activity for the V4WP grant over the next two months is for hand weeding by FMBG volunteers and to pay for contractor weeding and spraying.

Information about the grant can be found on the FMBG website.

FMBG Library

We have books, DVDs and magazines in the library. Take a look at the library at the regular monthly meetings.

Recent purchases: Flora of Melbourne and Weeds of the South-East, Eremophilas, Seed collection DVD, seed collection and propagation books.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference 2010 May 21st-23rd

The conference is hosted by Friends of Inland Botanic Gardens Mildura and supported by the Shire of Wentworth Council and the Mildura Rural City Council.

The conference theme is Secrets of the Mallee.

FMBG are giving a presentation at the conference.

The program includes short presentations of interesting and innovative developments in various gardens.

Speakers include Dr Gary Crilley, Senior Lecturer, Division of Business, School of Management, University of SA. Gary is responsible for the research on the benefits for the "over 50's" of volunteering in botanic gardens.

Brief Outline of Program:

Fri.21st May Pre-conference tour in local area (if numbers sufficient)

6.00pm Civic Reception, Alfred Deakin Centre

Sat.22nd May 8.30am Saturday Registration, morning sessions, afternoon discussions and AIB Gardens tours

Sun.23rd May 8.15 Breakfast at AIB Gardens, Early birds walk, sessions, AGM, Optional afternoon river trip

Mon.24th May Post Conference tour to places of environmental interest along the Murray River

Registration forms and details are available on the website.

See: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org (see events)

If you are interested in attending please let us know. We may look at getting accommodation for a group.

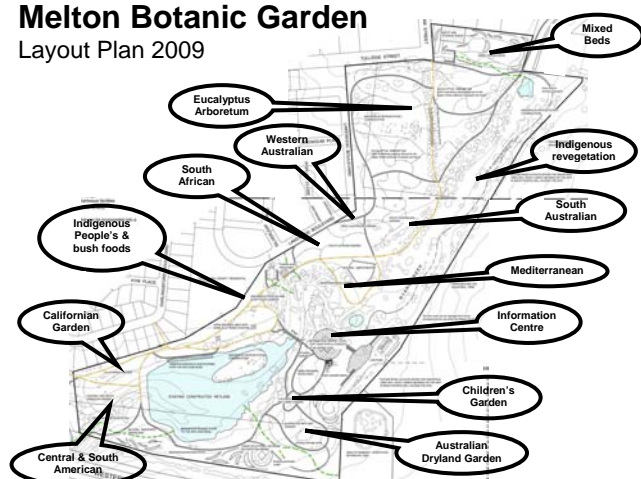
We have printed information and registration forms if anyone would like to consider attending.

Cost per person is \$120 but only \$90 if paid by 19th March. Extras per person include conference dinner \$48, breakfast in the gardens \$12, Sunday afternoon river cruise \$25, pre-conference tour \$100 and a post-conference tour \$25.

Alex Smart President of the Association of Friends of Botanic Garden will speak at our April 2010 meeting.

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. To date we have over 100 members for 2009-2010 and 5 corporate members.

Single-\$10, Single concession or student-\$5, Household/Concession-\$20/\$10, Associate-\$20, 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.

2010 Calendar

Another exciting year of guest speakers and activities is in store for 2010. Here is a taste of what is to come.

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne.

We are planning to have speakers present on some of the planned themed garden beds in the Melton Botanic Garden. **Barb Pye** will give us a glimpse of the arid plants of Australia following their recent trip to South Australia and NT. Barb will also be with us in March on plants we can propagate for the Melton Botanic Garden. Cathy Powers will present on West Australian plants as seen on Cathy's and Ron's trip to Western Australia.

Please get a copy of the calendar from the website or at meeting.

FMBG Corporate Members 2009 / 2010

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337

Ph: (03) 9743 5033

Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338

Ph: (03) 9743 5201

Manager: Peter Earl

Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337

Ph: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

SOV Consulting

Melton VIC 3337

Ph: (03) 9746 7558

Manager: Con Nikakis

Email: nikakisc@gmail.com

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337

p: (03) 9747 0855 f: (03) 9747 9593

<http://www.westernland.com.au>

Your Commitee

President: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Vice-President: Allan Benson (9746 6641)

Treasurer: Margaret Peters (5367 3328)

Secretary: Janet Dyke (9743 2733)

Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)

Executive members: Jill Bentley (9743 3819) &

Dave Peters(5367 3328)

Safety Officer: Dave Peters (5367 3328)



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

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

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