



**FMBG wishes you a Merry
Christmas and a happy New Year**

Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – Acacia

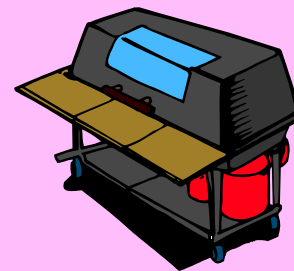
What's on in January 2011

3rd Monday Sausage Sizzle Bunnings
Assistance needed. Please contact Margaret or Jill
16th Sunday Executive Committee Planning Day
22nd Saturday Lakeside Live
FMBG information stand – Assistance needed
Please contact Margaret or Jill.

What's on in February 2011

8th Wednesday 7.30pm
Meeting: Sausage Sizzle Melton Botanic Garden
13th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch
Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas
10th Thursday & 27th Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

Wed 9th February 6.30pm
Sausage Sizzle at Melton Botanic Garden



Meet at rotundas near lake
For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Paid Team Leader Wanted for Melton Botanic Garden

Are you or anyone you may know interested in a paid 2 days per week (15 hours) position as a team leader to supervise a team of 10 people aged 24 plus? FMBG are working with CVGT Employment & Training Specialists to provide a Work for the Dole team in the Melton Botanic Garden for 6 months starting in February 2011.

A position description will be available soon.

The position is through CVGT and we would like to appoint someone by the end of January.
Please send expressions of interest to John Bentley (president@fmbg.org.au)

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

The great news is that we were successful in our \$15,000 grant application to the Bjarne K Dahl Trust 2010-2011 Small Grants Program. Thank you to David Pye who put in much work to help get the application finalised. The items the grant covers are spraying, gravel for paths, cultivation, tree guards, stakes, mulch, and post planting weed control.

The large rocks from the Anthony's Cutting Re-alignment project were placed into final position by Tony Dyke using his tractor and ably assisted by David Pye and Janet Dyke. We greatly appreciate their effort by providing their time and equipment.

The eucalypt seedlings were potted up in late November on a very wet night at David and Barb Pye's place. Thanks to everyone who went and helped. Both FMBG and APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh members helped pot up 743 eucalypt seedlings into forestry tubes. Thanks to Barb who has since potted up the remaining 300 seedlings that were not quite ready at the time. Commencement of planting is planned for May. Over the coming months weed control with spraying and ripping will be taking place to prepare the area. At some stage in the next few months will start constructing the paths.

There is a list of the eucalypts we are growing with a brief description of each on the web site or a copy can be emailed to you. The number of plants potted up is greater than requirements for the arboretum, and the excess will be sold.

If you know anyone who is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project requires site preparation involving activities such as marking out, ripping, building pathways plus getting associated materials and equipment.



Potted up eucalypts (photo Barb Pye)



Moving rocks (photo Janet Dyke)



Positioning the rocks into place (photo Janet Dyke)



Some rocks in final position near the path (photo Jill Bentley)



Baby eucalypts (photo Barb Pye)

More baby eucalypts – this is exciting (photo Barb Pye)



Eucalyptus Arboretum Contacts

Project Manager: David Pye (5428 9369)
dabpye@gmail.com
Working Party Chair: John Bentley (9743 3819)
president@fmbg.org.au
Plants: Barb Pye (5428 9369)
dabpye@gmail.com
Site Preparation: David Pye (5428 9369)
dabpye@gmail.com
John Bentley (9743 3819)
president@fmbg.org.au
Funding: John Bentley (9743 3819)
president@fmbg.org.au

MSC Decisions for the Melton Botanic Garden

More good news. At the Shire of Melton Council Meeting held on Monday 20th December the Council passed the following motion:

1. Endorse the landscape masterplan developed for the Melton Botanic Garden as attached in Appendix 1.
2. In partnership with the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden on the implementation of the masterplan and on-going maintenance of the asset.

Minutes and a full report of this agenda item can be found on the Shire of Melton website.

This will help in our applications for grants and knowing our role, rights and responsibilities in the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. Special thanks to those members who attended the meeting to show support. We will now work with Council through Brett Luxford to develop the MOU.

Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities National Awards

Jill and John Bentley represented FMBG at the national awards ceremony on 1st November in Sydney. Unfortunately Melton did not win the overall award but won the Energy Innovation Award. Congratulations to WA's City of Stirling on winning the overall award which was presented by The Hon Tony Burke MP Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

FMBG logo badges

Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public– we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery.

National Green Jobs Corps Graduation

National Green Jobs Corps team members graduated at a ceremony held at the You Yangs on 14th December. Thanks to Jill and Margaret for representing FMBG at the event and for their work with the team. We wish the team members all the best in their next ventures. The NGJC team is run by CVGT Employment and Training. The trainees have been weeding and planting along Ryans Creek since August and have made a valuable contribution to the rehabilitation of the creek.



Some participants at the NGJC graduation (photo Jill Bentley)

Latest Corporate Member

Platinum
accounting & taxation

We welcome Platinum Accounting and Taxation of Melton as our latest corporate member. Corinne Cole is the manager.

Office Address: 9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337

Postal Address: P.O.Box 440, Melton Vic 3337

Phone: (03) 9746 6479

Web: <http://www.platinumaccounting.com.au>

Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

End of Year Celebration

The FMBG end of year celebration was held at the Peters' property. They were great hosts and had also built a large covered verandah recently which sheltered everyone from the rain. 33 people attended.

The raffle raised \$172. Many thanks to local businesses for their support throughout the year.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

If you wish to assist with propagation and growing some plants please contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328

Grow the Garden Days 10am-noon

We held GTGDs in October and November. Thanks to Tony Dyke who brought the FMBG trailer and tools when we held an extended Grow the Day in October.



A happy bunch of volunteers planting in late October



Some of the plantings

Next Grow the Garden Days are in February on Thursday 10th and Sunday 27th.

Ryans Creek in Flood

Huge downpours in late November and early December have caused Ryans creek to flood like we have never seen before. The creek broke its banks and has washed away some of the paths, which now have deep gouge marks in them. Jill Bentley has taken a video of the overflowing creek. If you would like a copy bring along a memory stick, the video is 42MB which is too large for the website or email.

The lake even came up to the edge of the rotundas. Fortunately our plants seemed to have withstood the flood. Both FMBG plantings and weeds are growing well with recent rains.

Fundraising

Monday 3rd January
Sausage Sizzle Bunnings
Assistance needed.
Please contact Margaret or Jill



Ryans Creek on right, overflow on left (photo Jill Bentley)



Fast flowing overflow (photo Jill Bentley)



Lake nearly to rotunda (photo Jill Bentley)

Grader in Melton Botanic Garden

A grader was sighted working in the top section of the Melton Botanic Garden recently. Seems the land near the new industrial section is being levelled so that the MSC mowing contractor will be able to mow this area.



Ryans Creek – What is flowering now?

Some of our 2010 plantings are in flower.



Brachyscome basaltica - Basalt daisy



Goodenia ovate – Hop Goodenia



Ranunculus lappaceus - Australian buttercup



Lythrum salicaria - Purple loosestrife



A challenge for your identification skills, have forgotten what this is. What's in flower will keep changing so why not take a walk along the creek at various times to see what is there.

FMBG Vacant Executive Position

We are looking for someone suitable to fill the Vice-President position. Please see John if you are interested

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting is Tuesday 18th Jan 7.30pm – at the Bentley's.

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, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

Working outside of scheduled activities

Members who wish to work at the MBG outside set Grow the Garden or Clean Up Days must observe the following:

1. There must be a minimum of two Members in each work party.
2. Either Allan Benson or Margaret Peters must be contacted the night before to let them know who will be working at MBG, starting time, estimated finishing time, and proposed activity. You can ask Allan or Margaret what needs to be done.
3. You must have a mobile phone with you and have given the phone number to Allan or Margaret. You must also have emergency services contact numbers with you at all times.
4. You must work to FMBG safe working practices.
5. As a means of identification by the public, logo badges must be worn. If you have high visibility clothing, this should also be worn.
6. You must use your own tools and FMBG will not be responsible for any damage to such tools.
7. Allan or Margaret must be advised immediately of any problems arising while you are working at MBG.
8. When you finish you must again contact Allan or Margaret to let them know what work was done and your finishing time for our records.

Contact Numbers:-

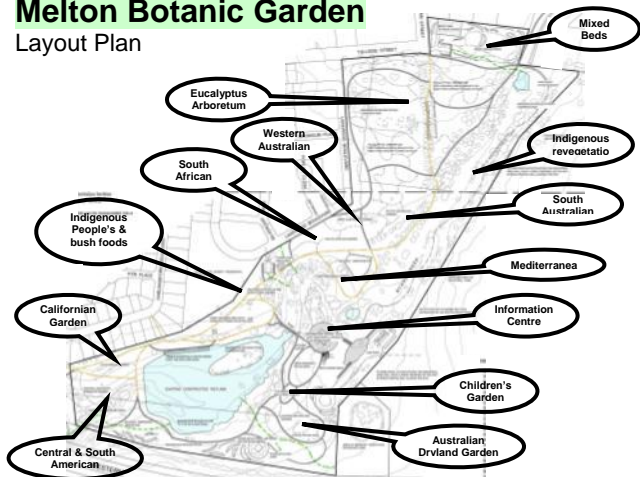
Allan – Mobile: 0419 005 895; Phone: 9746 6441

Margaret – Mobile: 0412 097 391; Phone: 5367 3328

John – Safety Officer: Mobile: 0412 762 531

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

Renewals are due July 1st – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We had 148 members in 2009-2010.

Single-\$10, Single concession or student-\$5, Household/Concession-\$20/\$10, Associate-\$20, Corporate-\$50

The Membership/Renewal form on the FMBG website.

You can also pay by direct bank transfer to FMBG.

Account Name: Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

BSB: 033-121 **Account Number:** 20-8503

Please ensure that your name appears under the transaction details. In addition, also submit the form or email to friends@fmbg.org.au

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.

2011 Calendar

We have some very good and interesting speakers lined up for 2011. To name a few we have: Bill Morrison on Growing Cacti & Succulents, Chris Findlay from Flora Victoria on grasslands & weed control, Richard Barley CEO of the Open Garden Scheme, Don Journet from the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia on 'Why conserve garden plants', and Marcus Ryan of Lambley Nursery fame on Mediterranean Plants.

Facebook Fans

If you use Facebook you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type Melton Botanic Garden into the Facebook search box and you should be able to find the group.

FMBG Corporate Members 2010/11

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

Melton Toyota

143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337

Ph: (03) 8746 0300

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337

Ph: (03) 9746 6479

Manager: Corinne Cole

Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

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 Committee

President:	John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary:	Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members:	Jill Bentley (9743 3819)
	Lyn Nardella
	Peter Sell
Safety Officer:	Vacant – John is filling in
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)



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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