



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter July/August 2011

No.15



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

Photo: Western Water "Leaders in Sustainability" awarded to FMBG at the 2011 Powercor Melton Business Awards

July Activities

13th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting

Guest Speaker: Don Journet – Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia on 'Why conserve garden plants'

14th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

24th Sunday 10-12.30 Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

31st Sunday 10am-12.30 Grow the Garden – National Tree Day

Ryans Creek-Melton Botanic Garden-not usual 4th Sunday

August Activities

10th Wednesday 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Photo Competition

11th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

14th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch

Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

28th Sunday 10-12.30 Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

Editor: Many thanks to Les, Elaine and Janet for their contributions to this newsletter.

Inspiring Quote

"I love my grandparents because they take me to the botanic gardens and let me dig"

Jarrold aged 4, in response to a question at kindergarten about why I love my grandparents.

Jarrold comes to some Grow the Garden days.

He is good at digging up galena, a weed we need to keep under control.

Wednesday 13th July 7.30pm Don Journet Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia 'Why conserve garden plants'

Hear about the need to register and document cultivated garden plant collections held by collectors, horticulturalists, nursery owners, land managers, gardeners, botanic gardens and societies



Wednesday 10th Aug 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Photo Competition

If the standard of photographs and interest following our first photo competition in 2010 is any gauge this should be another great night of fun and enjoyment

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

It is very pleasing to know that all the eucalypt seedlings for 2011 have been planted. Over three planting days Saturday 11th, Thursday 16th and Sunday 19th June FMBG and APS members planted 450 eucalypts. This has been a great effort in organisation and preparation and was achieved by excellent planning by David and Barb Pye. The tubes were laid out in accordance with future growth in areas where the best possible showpiece can be seen. Our thanks go to all those who helped but especially to Barb and David Pye who propagated the seedlings and organised the plantings. Barb and David are now off to Vietnam and central Australia for a well-earned break. Bon voyage!



FMBG members with Barb Pye who planted the first eucalypt

The secondary paths have been mapped using GPS and their ground location painted yellow. Cutting of the paths and spreading a layer of road base for most of the primary paths has been done. Last 100m will be completed soon. We will add Tuscan Toppings over the road base once we have finished planting, constructing the secondary paths and finishing fencing.

The primary paths are now being used by people visiting the MBG (and unfortunately by trail bikes).

The CVGT Work Experience Activity Team commenced in June. They have been doing a great job in the Arboretum through planting, weeding and constructing fences. They will be commencing construction of the secondary paths soon. Many thanks to the members who have been on Wednesdays and Thursdays to provide morning tea for the team and to help out. Many thanks to Melton Home Timber and Hardware as they provided space for the CVGT team to store our tools.

Andrew Traczynski was appointed as the Work Experience Activity team leader following a competitive application process. There were a number of well qualified people apply for the

position. Congratulations Andrew on your appointment and we look forward to working with you.

The council are now regularly dropping off mulch for us to use. The CVGT Team have been using the mulch to spread around their plantings under the trees along the main MBG path.



CVGT team plantings along the main MBG path

It is looking good along the paths and you can sit on the rocks from the Anthonys Cutting Realignment Project (ACRP). By the way the ACRP is going to place a plaque on the rocks to indicate their contribution to arboretum.



FMBG members enjoying a break on the ACRP rocks

The Working Party has been very active with meetings in both May and June. Western Water are going to connect a water main and hydrant point for FMBG to use and will also donate some volcanic rocks for use in landscaping.

Contributions to help build the Arboretum:

If you or anyone you know is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment.

Does anyone have a ute they don't want?

Eucalyptus Arboretum Planting Days



David



Barb



Lyn



Margaret



Don



Margaret



Jill



Aaron



Phyllis



Janet



Sheryl & Corinne



Phyllis & Jarrod



Jean



Mathew & Ann



Elaine



Sheryl



Jill and Lyn



Susanne



Secondary path



David



Last Day Crew



Allan



Taking a break

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

CVGT Work Experience Team Leader

Andrew Traczynski was appointed the CVGT Work Experience Activity Team Leader in late May. Let me tell you a little about Andrew's many talents.

Andrew holds an Associate Degree in Environmental Horticulture which he recently completed at the Burnley Campus of The University of Melbourne. Whilst doing his course he has been working part time in the nursery section of Bunnings plus teaching karate several times a week and has started a garden design business. These are just some of his talents as he also has 15 years' experience as a Graphic Designer.

Andrew has given much to the Melton community. He has studied martial arts for over 20 years. Achieving a 'Shodan' (full black belt or 1st Dan) in 1997 and has gone on to achieve his 'Sandan' or 3rd Dan. As a Karate instructor he teaches and runs classes 3 times per week, being involved in all the clubs activities, responsible for all bookwork and produces all the clubs graphic design material including forms, notices and their website. Andrew has been involved with the Melton community radio station 979fm for 7 years as a volunteer where he served on the Production Sub-Committee, produced their newsletter, participated in working days and special events and produced much of the graphic design needs. To add to that he produced and presented a weekly radio show called "Picture Music" which aired Sunday evenings.

Andrew has been a keen gardener for most of his life. He has an interest in indigenous plants, Australian natives, garden design, Japanese garden design, general gardening, home or small scale food production (fruit and vegetable), sustainable gardening practices and learning about the science of horticulture. His garden has a vegetable and herb patch as well as several fruit trees. He is improving his plant

identification skills including a developing knowledge base of Australian native species, especially those indigenous to Victoria and the Western Basalt Plains.

His other Interests include travelling, fitness, reading, film, music, sciences including astronomy, bushwalking, learning Japanese language, martial arts, travelling, photography and spending as much time as he can with his wife.



Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Would you like your own FMBG name badge?

This badge would have the

FMBG logo on it and your name. However, they cost about \$15 each.

The Executive decided it was too expensive to provide these from FMBG funds.

If you would like one and are prepared to pay for the cost of the badge please see Jill Bentley.



FMBG Logo Badges

We have plenty of FMBG button badges thanks to the Melbourne Water Grant and FMBG funds. Please let Jill know if you need a badge. Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public– we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery. Some FMBG members received discounts at some Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show stalls as they were wearing their badges.



Target 200



This not about reducing the road toll, which is an important issue, but about achieving FMBG's target to increase our membership base to 200 in 2011/2012.

One suggestion you can do to help reach our target 200 is to
“Sign up a friend”

For membership information please contact:
Jill Bentley 9743 3819 or see the website

Clean Up and Waterwatch Day

At the the Clean-up day on Sunday 12th June a dozen of us, after the fog lifted, picked up rubbish in the Gardens. Thankfully, there wasn't much rubbish to collect, so it didn't take too long. People are getting the message not to litter and clean-up after themselves. John and Janet tested the water quality and temperature. It was found to be pretty good.

Also while cleaning, Lyn and John found red mushrooms. Looking up on the web, I found they are called, Amanita Muscaria, a Northern Hemisphere fungus which has been introduced to Australia. Like the Rabbit, Cane Toad and Pattersons Curse, an unnecessary evil.



Nevertheless, we all had a good cuppa and went home well satisfied.

Reporters: Elaine and Les.

Bunnings Fundraiser

At the Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 22nd May we made a profit \$1,113

Many thanks to everyone who assisted in making this a very worthwhile fundraising effort

FMBG Draft Budget Submission

At least 20 FMBG members attended the Special Budget Council Meeting on Thursday 16th June in support of the FMBG submission for MSC to build toilets and access restriction fencing for the gardens near the rotunda.

We are eagerly awaiting the outcome, however, there were 39 submissions plus over a hundred submissions specifically on rural taxes being increased.

What Eucalypt is that?

In the Melton Botanic Garden you won't be wondering "what eucalypt is that" anymore. Thanks to the Shire of Melton Environment Grant from 2010 FMBG have labelled 100 eucalypts in the garden. Many thanks to Alan Partridge for his work in getting the metal backing plates onto the plastic labels and in working with Ted Whitehead to the drill holes. Alan has spent many hours helping to attach the Eucalypt labels. The labels were produced by the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens (www.fbbg.org.au).

Ask Alan what his favourite eucalypt species is.





Some of 100 tree labels

FMBG Presentations

Jill Bentley and Lyn Nardella gave a presentation about the Melton Botanic Garden with emphasis on the Eucalyptus Arboretum to the Probus Club of Melton on Tuesday 7th June. The presentation was well received with many questions being asked.



Probus President Ron Templeton with Jill Bentley & Lyn Nardella

They also received a certificate of appreciation for their presentation. There were 29 people at the presentation.

John and Jill Bentley gave a presentation to the Footscray Garden Club on Monday 6th June where FMBG received a donation for giving the talk and two people joined as members.

Getting out and about Jill and John gave the presentation to the Broadmeadows and District Garden Club on Tuesday 14th June where FMBG again received a donation.



Footscray Garden Club Members

These presentations raise awareness of Melton, FMBG and most importantly the Melton Botanic Garden across the region.

We have been booked to give a presentation at the Williamstown Garden Club in October and will also present at the BGANZ Congress later in October.

If anyone would like to be involved in giving presentations to groups please contact John or Jill. We have a pre-prepared Powerpoint presentation that you can use or just come along and support the speaker. We always need helpers to carry the equipment.

Fundraising Australian Native Plant Sale

Australian Plants Society
Melton and Bacchus Marsh Inc.
Thanks to everyone who helped on Saturday
21st May with selling our surplus
eucalypt seedlings and promoting
the Melton Botanic Garden

We raised \$372

Visitors to the Melton Botanic Garden

On Sunday 26th June Bill Brown (President) and Allison Martland (Secretary) from the Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association visited the Melton Botanic Garden. They are forming a friends group now that they have an allocated site for the Shepparton Botanic Garden. They came with a list of questions as they wished to learn how FMBG was created and how we were managing the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. They got to meet Janet Dyke and Lyn Nardella who are founding members of FMBG as we also had a Grow the Garden Day. John Bentley took the visitors on a guided tour. They were very impressed with what we had been doing and the range of existing trees.



Bill, Allison and John from Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens.

BGANZ

FMBG is an associate member of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Publications and information on their website is well worth reading if you are interested in Botanic Gardens.

FMBG will be presenting at the BGANZ Congress in Albury 21-23 October, 2011.

See: www.bganz.org.au

Grow the Garden Days (GTGD)

On 2nd June, hardy volunteers with help from CaLM volunteers, staked, cleared areas, weeded, dug holes and planted more industrial area screening trees along Ryans Creek as we did a couple of weeks ago. Apparently we will be doing this most Thursdays mornings for quite a while.



FMBG and CaLM workers

During the week I know there won't be many volunteers because of people working at their jobs but every little bit helps.

At the Grow the Garden Day on Thursday 9th June we waited until the threat of rain passed, then a half a dozen of us tackled the planting of trees as screening at Ryans Creek in earnest. Again we measured the lines, cleared areas, dug holes and planted trees. I think we did over 50 trees in less than 2hrs. A great job by everyone.

Reporters: Les and Elaine.

Note: A major requirement of attending a Grow the Garden Day is to look as daggy as you can. After all you don't want to get your good clothes

dirty and you need to stay warm. Just look at the fashions being displayed in the photos in this newsletter.

2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden were encouraged to nominate for the Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards in the Best Community and Not-for-Profit Category. The awards were announced on Friday 29th April at the presentation dinner attended by Janet and Tony Dyke and Jill and John Bentley.

Unfortunately we did not win the Community and Not-for-Profit Category but to our surprise we were awarded the Western Water "Leaders in Sustainability" award.

Well done Janet Dyke for the excellent submission and to all those who helped promote FMBG to the judges.

This is an award we will use to help promote the Melton Botanic Garden. See page 1 of the newsletter for a photo of the award and the logo we can use.

Congratulations to our corporate member Platinum Accounting & Taxation on receiving the Mayoral award.



Western Water Chairmain Terry Larkins (left) with FMBG members Jill, John, Janet and Tony

June Meeting Report

Although we had winter conditions at the FMBG June meeting, there was a very good attendance. Perhaps the batwoman, Lindy Lumsden from the Australasian Bat Society, drew us to see her. Nevertheless, she was an extremely good speaker. She gave us a good insight into the lifestyles of both the flying foxes and bats of all species. The best part was the showing of her pet bat George which was over 20 years old. Not only that, but the size of the bat left everyone speechless. It was tiny. So

every time we see a movie about bats we will think of Lindy's bat. A truly Batwoman.



Lindy with George the bat

Another good aspect which came from the meeting was a congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, thanking us for the good work we have achieved in gaining the Leaders in Sustainability award. Everyone felt that all the work we are doing has been recognised.

Also in attendance were Don Nardella, Member of Parliament for Melton and Broden Borg, Deputy Mayor. Things are looking up.

We are again resubmitting a request to the council for toilets and access restriction. Hopefully we might be successful.

Reporters: Les and Elaine.

Restricted access into the MBG

Good news. MSC have moved quickly to restrict access near the industrial estate by placing a post and chain fence across the dirt tracks following our lodgement of issues.



Restricted access from the industrial estate

When the car park is constructed near the BBQs it would be hoped a similar type fence could be used to restrict the vehicle flow from near the lake into the Melton Botanic Garden.



Restricted access along Ryans Creek from High Street

Thanks to Melton Shire Council and everyone who contributed to getting the restrictions in place as it is most heartening to see this support so that the probability of damage is lessened to the planting work FMBG have been doing.



Trail Bike Policeman patrolling the Melton Botanic Garden

It was also good to see and talk with the trail bike policemen on Sunday 26th June patrolling in the Melton Botanic Garden. He did say he needed a new bike. The one he is riding was funded by MSC many years ago.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting is Tuesday 26th July 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.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

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

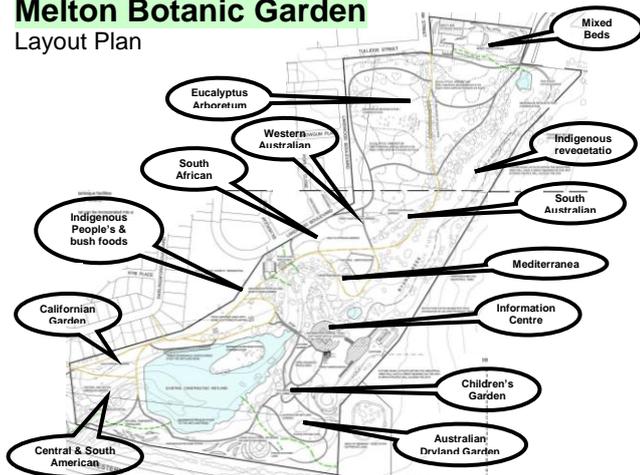
Please ensure that any potted plants you donate are saleable. This means they are healthy, planted in potting mix, in good pots and clean.



The public are very discerning when making purchases.

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

We now have new 3 members from Shenyang in North East China, and one from the USA, welcome. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We are aiming for 200 in 2011-2012. So sign up a friend.

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

The Membership/Renewal form is available 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 an exciting speaker program for 2011. To come are: 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 Executive Committee

President:	John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
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)

FMBG can give presentations to groups as well as host guided tours of the garden

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: editor@fmbg.org.au



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

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