



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter May/June 2011

No.14



Photo: The just released FMBG DVD of the Melton Botanic Garden playing at the International Flower and Garden Show

May Activities

5th Thursday 2.30pm Working Party Meeting

Eucalyptus Arboretum meeting Melton Community Hall Meeting Room 1

11th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting

Richard Barley Australia's Open Garden Scheme

12th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

21st Saturday 9am-1pm Australian Plant Society Annual Plant Sale – Bacchus Marsh

22nd Sunday Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – all day

29th Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden -not usual 4th Sunday due to Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on 22nd

June Activities

8th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting

Lindy Lumsden Australasian Bat Society – Bats

9th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

12th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day and Waterwatch

Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

24th Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner

To book please contact Lynette 9747 9034 by 20th March

26th Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

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

Wednesday 11th May 7.30pm Richard Barley CEO Australia's Open Garden Scheme



Richard Barley is a well-known and highly respected figure in horticultural and botanical circles around Australia, with a long and distinguished career at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBGM), where he was the Director, Melbourne Gardens. He is currently the Convenor of the Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) Victoria State Committee and is a member of the Management Committee of the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Eucalyptus Arboretum Update

The eucalypt seedlings are ready to plant. Look out for announcements of the planting days.



FMBG Eucalypts visiting the MBG as part of the Powercor Melton Business Awards judging

Follow up spraying of weeds took place in early April by Western Land Services and again by FMBG volunteers on Wednesday 27th April. Thanks to David Pye and the Bullengarook landcare group he is involved in for use of their spraying equipment.

The secondary paths have been mapped using GPS. Cutting of the paths and spreading a layer of road base for most of the primary paths should happen in early May. We may need some volunteers to spread road base screenings and to operate the compactor.

We are still awaiting the establishment of the work for the dole team and the appointment of a team leader. There has been a slight hiccup with CVGT suggesting FMBG should employ the team leader. Advice from MSC stated that FMBG should not employ the team leader. We are now working with CVGT to address the situation. Unfortunately some of the managers we deal with had leave in April. We are meeting CVGT on 29th April to get things back on track.

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

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.

We are awaiting the outcome of our grant application for \$132,000 from the Vision for Werribee Plains funding scheme.

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

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 badges thanks to 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.

Wednesday 8th May 7.30pm
Lindy Lumsden

Australasian Bat Society

This is a great presentation on Australian Bats. You may even get to hold one of the small bats that Lindy usually brings along.

Discover their environmental value.

The Melton Men's Shed are building bat boxes for the MBG.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

FMBG Bus Trip Report Saturday 9th April

On Saturday 9th April the Community Bus rolled out again for an enjoyable FMBG Tour. This time it was titled “Our Mystery Tour” with most members not knowing where the bus was heading.



The field trippers at Bulla

First we went to Alister Clark Rose Garden at Bulla. Occupying a space between the old council house and a bluestone church, the Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden contains 60 of the 66 available Alister Clark roses.

The garden is interesting for the number of roses and other plants in old fashioned garden beds. We were told that the possums of the region also enjoy and visit the garden.

The garden is maintained by volunteers, who are doing fantastic work. Mary Crane showed us around the garden.



Mary Crane sharing features of the rose garden

We next went to a Farmers Market held at the Gatehouse, Rupertswood in Sunbury. Possibly expected more “farmers” stalls to be there. Possibly another Market may have been on that day that they had attended. Nevertheless, a nice walk around before getting on the bus again and heading for Gisborne.

At Gisborne we had lunch in the vicinity of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens. Beautiful weather. 27 degrees at that time.

We went for a walk around the Gisborne Botanic Gardens. FMBG attended the Gardens back in 2005 and it was interesting the change in the gardens with time and rain!



The information area at Gisborne Botanic Gardens

We then headed for the Gisborne Nursery who has just won another award. Everyone on the bus agreed that it was well deserved. The nursery was very enjoyable; believe a “sculpture” was purchased (quack quack) as well as many plants. A café seemed to be the only thing our coffee drinkers could think of as an improvement.



Entrance to the award winning Gisborne Nursery

Finally while still in strong sunshine we headed for the Darley Native Gardens surrounding the sports reserve. Alan Partridge seemed to be heard admitting to owning a few of the species that were on display.



Taking at break at Darley Native Gardens

As we headed for the Western Highway rain clouds started gathering and we all got back to the Library car park just in time before the storms later that day.

Reporter: Janet Dyke

Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Up Australia Day

FMBG had a good turnout for Clean Up Australia Day at the Melton Botanic Garden on Sunday 6th March.

We also enjoyed a free BBQ at Hannah Watts Park afterwards and got the opportunity to talk with the volunteers from other sites to hear what they had done.

Thanks to Janet Dyke for all the preparation work which made the activity a great success.



FMBG volunteers at Clean Up Australia Day in the MBG

Clean Up and Waterwatch Day

Although the wind factor was chilly and rain threatening, there was a good turnup of volunteers to clean up the gardens on Sunday 10th April. On one hand it took just over an hour and a half to collect the rubbish and it filled between 6-9 bags. On the other hand it shows people at last are cleaning up their own rubbish, which is good news.

On the downside, we noticed a lot of household rubbish, (TV set, blankets, cardboard boxes, double bed mattress and plastic bags filled with odds and ends) left on the nature strip which borders on the garden area. The council has been notified. This unfortunately happens a lot around parkland.

Reporter: Leslie Gordon

Richard Akers from Melbourne Water attended to help with Waterwatch. Bug Identification was also to be held but will now be held on October 9th. Anyone interested please come to our Clean-up/Waterwatch on that date.

Reporter: Janet Dyke

Fundraising at Bunnings

Sunday 22nd May

Sausage Sizzle

Assistance needed anytime 8am - 5pm

Please contact Margaret or Jill

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show



FMBG Hanging Basket



Bev and Allan helping at the FMBG Display

FMBG display was in an area within the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV) stand on the second level of the main exhibition building. This proved to be a good location. We arranged a 3 metre area for display with APS Victoria. There was much interest in our display and the Melton Botanic Garden.

We also showed a new produced 13 minute DVD slideshow of the Melton Botanic Garden. If you would like a copy please contact John Bentley – you may be on the DVD slideshow.

The FMBG entered a hanging basket in the RHSV Hanging Basket Competing using *Kennedia prostrata* (Running Postman) and various indigenous grasses. Did anyone spot the snake in the grass?



FMBG Display at International Flower and Garden Show featuring the development of the Dryland Eucalyptus Arboretum

FMBG Talks

Jill Bentley and Allan Benson gave a presentation about the Melton Botanic Garden with emphasis on the Eucalyptus Arboretum to the Sunbury Garden Club on Tuesday 5th April. The presentation was well received with many questions being asked. There were about 35 people at the presentation. FMBG also received a donation for giving the talk.

Visitors to the Melton Botanic Garden

Kevin Walsh from the Bendigo Botanic Gardens visited the MBG following his talk at the Melton Library on Sunday 10th April. Kevin was particularly keen to see what FMBG had been doing on the Eucalyptus Arboretum. He praised the work of the friends and our strong relationships with MSC and other groups.

Gayle Tierney MP, Member for Western Victoria in the Legislative Council visited the MBG on Thursday 31st March. Showing Gayle around were Jill Bentley (FMBG), Allan Benson (FMBG), Broden Borg (MSC Deputy Mayor), and Brett Luxford (MSC). Gayle saw the potential of the MBG and offered to provide FMBG with information on sources of grants.

Another high profile visitor was the Mayor of Melton Justin Mammarella. John Bentley, Jill Bentley and Alan Partridge showed him around. Justin was impressed with the work the friends have been undertaking and offered his support as he can envisage the potential of the MBG.



Kevin Walsh and John Bentley admiring the work on the Eucalyptus Arboretum

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. The latest newsletter publication available online is The Botanic Garden - Issue 29 April 2011. See: www.bganz.org.au under newsletters.

Grow the Garden Days (GTGD)

Grow the Garden Day on the 27th March was hard work. Owing to the lack of rain over the last month, the soil was rock hard. Digging holes and turning the soil to plant the seedlings, etc was extremely taxing. Fortunately, we had about a dozen hardy workers and most of the plants were planted. The fruits of our labour will be visible in a few years. Hope it rains for our next visit.

Sunday 17th April was quite a pleasant day. The morning was exceptional. Again the workers (volunteers) did a great job. We cleared the area of couch grass before planting the shrubs. Margaret said that she expected a 90% success rate.

After two hours of solid work the cup of tea was very welcomed. A nice get together is the best part.

Reporters: Les and Elaine.



Taking the plants out of the tubes at GTGD



Some FMBG members planting at the GTGDs

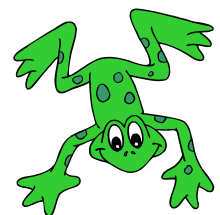
Ribbet-Ribbet! Frog Recording Session

On the 20th March members attended to conduct a census on the local frogs of the Melton Botanic Garden. However, the frogs were not so enthusiastic. Only a few common froglets were heard.

All frog tunes will now be lodged with Melbourne Water who keep records through the years to monitor the health of Ryans Creek.

To see what frogs have been recorded around Melton visit: www.frogs.melbournewater.com.au

Reporter: Janet Dyke



2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden nominated for the Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards in the Best Community and Not-for-Profit Category. We have been listed as a finalist in the award category. The awards will be announced on Friday 29th April at the presentation dinner.

Judges attended the Melton Botanic Garden and met with Margaret Peters, David Pye, Jill Bentley and Janet Dyke. The marquee was erected with help from David Peters and we displayed FMBG promotional information as well as showing some of our new plants for the new Eucalyptus Arboretum.

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

April Meeting Report

Our guest speaker was Chris Finlay of Flora Victoria. He spoke on "Grasslands and Weed Control" The discussion was very informative. He gave us an in-depth view of his occupation. A lot of areas which were denuded of vegetation, his company sowed and seeded indigenous grasses. He showed the before and after effects. Some of the results were quite alarming, demonstrating preparation and maintenance are extremely important.

In General Business, Alan reported on the field trip on the 9th April. The party visited Bulla, Rupertswood, Gisborne Gardens had the lunch. Afterwards they visited Darley Gardens then home. All together, they had a wonderful day and bought lots of plants.

Jill talked about the International Flower and Garden Show. Although we shared the display with other garden societies, a lot of favourable comments were received. She thanked all the volunteers who put in the hours.

Margaret said the Diggers Rest Country Festival was a little disappointing because of the wet conditions and lack of attendance. We still sold about \$180.00 worth of plants.

Janet said about the Frog Census that there were no frogs and no tadpoles. Does anyone know where we can get some?

The meeting itself was well attended. About 25 people came, which is not too bad considering the winter conditions.

The Eucalyptus Arboretum is progressing nicely and the first saplings should be planted on time.

Reporters: Les and Elaine.

Welcome Back to Waterwatch

This event was held by Melbourne Water on Wednesday 23rd March 6:30-9:30pm.

Jill Bentley, Verna Reed and Janet Dyke attended a lakeside BBQ at Cherry Lake Reserve, Millers Road, Altona. The weather was unfortunately, not perfect for a BBQ by a lake.

The BBQ was followed by community presentations.

Jill spoke on the Friends work at the Melton Botanic Garden and work with Melbourne Water. Other Community members spoke on their contributions that make the Healthy Waterways Waterwatch Program work.

One interesting point was the screen that showed the power point displays. It was like a one sided "jumping castle" design and worked quite well in the weather.



The screen used by Melbourne Water

Thanks to Sasha Roos and Richard Akers of Melbourne Water.



The Melbourne Water team

Reporter: Janet Dyke

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting is Monday 2nd May 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.

Diggers Rest Country & Music Fair

In spite of a cold and windy day, plant sales were \$180. We had a good number of enquiries. The FMBG marquee was visited by the Mayor Justin Mammarella and Melton's Citizen of the Year Lydia Lassila the freestyle skier from Diggers Rest who won a gold medal at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

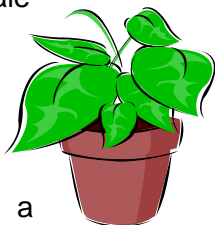


FMBG marquee at the Diggers Rest Country and Music Fair

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

Propagation day at Margaret's on 15th March was very relaxing. After a cup of tea, about a dozen of us worked very hard for 2 hours transferring hundreds of plants from tubes to larger pots to be ready for sale and presentation at various garden shows.

If you haven't been to Margaret's, come and enjoy the view of Bacchus Marsh and Hopetoun Park. Have a cuppa and put in a couple hours work.



Reporter: Leslie Gordon

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.

Environmental Talk

Well known environmental horticulturist Judy Allen will speak to local environmental groups about her environmental work on Wednesday 18th May 7.30pm at Melton Shire Council, Community Meeting Room 4

Judy is a TAFE teacher teaching a course in Horticulture at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, the Women's Prison in Deer Park. She has offered to grow indigenous plants for environmental revegetation projects as part of a TAFE course. This is seen as a way the women at Deer Park can contribute back to the community.

The Department of Justice, Moreland Council, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-operative recently won the Most Innovative Partnership Project Award for a revegetation project in Moreland, in 2010. This has inspired the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre to do something similar this coming year. This project will supply plants for Melton Environment Group and Pinkerton Landcare & Environment Group for environmental revegetation from locally collected indigenous seeds.



Members spraying weeds in the Eucalyptus Arboretum 27th April

Fundraising Australian Native Plant Sale Australian Plants Society Melton and Bacchus Marsh Inc.

Saturday 21st May 9am-1pm

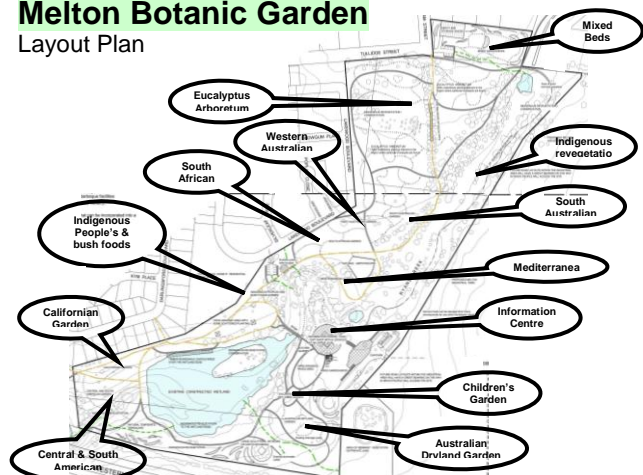
FMBG will be selling our surplus Eucalypt
Seedlings

St Andrews Uniting Church
Cnr Gisborne Rd and Lerderberg St
Bacchus Marsh

Assistance needed anytime 8am - 1pm
Please contact Margaret or Jill

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

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

We have a new member from Shenyang in North East China, welcome to Shu Gou. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010. So far we have 136 members for 2010-2011. We are aiming for 160 by 30th June, and 200 in 2011-2012.

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: Richard Barley CEO of the Open Garden Scheme, Don Journet from the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia on 'Why conserve garden plants', Lindy Lumsden Australasian Bat Society on Bats 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 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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