



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter November/December 2011

No.17



Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – Volunteers at Grow the Garden Day 25th September 2011 ©John Bentley

November Activities

5th Saturday Djerrwarrh Festival Parade and Stall

9th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting

Guest Speaker: Marcus Ryan – Mediterranean Plants

10th Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

10th Thursday 2.30-4.30pm Eucalypts Arboretum Working Party Meeting

MSC Offices

20th Sunday Field Trip – Geelong BG and district gardens

Contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761

27th Sunday 10am-12.30pm Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

December – for your diary

14th Wednesday FMBG End-of-Year Celebration

At Bev and Allan Benson's place

10 Viviannes Way, Melton

21st Wednesday Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

8am-5pm helpers wanted – contact Jill 9743 3819

22nd Thursday December 7pm Frog Watch

Meet at the rotundas near the lake

contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"

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

You can help reach our target 200 just make sure you have renewed and also

"Sign up a friend"

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

Upcoming Meetings

**Wednesday 9th Nov 7.30pm
Mediterranean Plants**

Marcus Ryan

Marcus has just returned from a study tour in Europe to enhance his already extensive knowledge of dry climate plants.

This is a not to be missed presentation.

There is a Mediterranean Garden Bed planned for the MBG so come along and find what it may look like and what will also suit your garden.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**Wednesday 8th Dec 6.30pm
End of Year Celebration
Bev & Allan Benson's Place**

10 Vivianes Way, Darlingsford, Melton

Huge Raffle with many many prizes

BYO BBQ food, seats, drinks, glasses and utensils

Please bring a salad or dessert to share

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Djerriwarrh Festival

We had a good turnout of volunteers helping at the FMBG marquee on Saturday 5th November. It was great some members came along to help set-up and then return to assist in the packing up. Thanks to everyone who helped.

We had many enquires, received two new memberships applications and sold many plants. Over \$225 was raised in funds for FMBG.



FMBG marquee Djerriwarrh Festival

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development



*Eucalypts are growing
all looking good including the weeds*

The Working Party meets on 10 November to plan the work for the next few months and early 2012.

Western water has donated two truckloads of volcanic rocks for use in landscaping. Weed spraying is being done.

The Vision for Werribee Plains Project Control Group meeting was held in September at the MSC offices. This group monitors the progress of the project and expenditure of funds.



*V4WP Grant Project Control Group Members
Adrian Murphy (MSC), David Pye (APS), Max Coster (V4WP), John Bentley (FMBG)*

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.

Wanted: Anyone have a ute they don't want or at a very low price?

CVGT Work Experience Activity Team

The team is continuing to contribute to the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. The current team will finish at the end of November. CVGT are planning a BBQ farewell and a thank you to each team member. A submission is being prepared for a new CVGT team to commence early in 2012.

In November the team commenced the secondary path toppings with recycled wood mulch. This type of mulch is slow to breakdown.



A secondary path towards Ryans Creek



A secondary path towards Lakewood

FMBG members continue to help support the team by bringing morning team for them.

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

September - Ordinary Meeting Report

The attendance was very heart-warming. It was very good to see many turn up for the meeting. We had a wonderful speaker in Nora Peters. She introduced us to the wonderful world of bugs and insects. Some of the photographs were amazing. I don't think we realised that so many bugs and insects existed. Also she showed us many varieties of butterflies as well as lizards and snakes. It kept us entertained for over an hour. After that we had to have a cuppa.

Other news is that everything is progressing well. We are striving to increase our membership, Eucalyptus Arboretum is on track

and the working parties for various tasks are managing well.

We got our photo in the Melton Newsletter for receiving the environmental grant. It has been a good year so far. Let's keep it up.

October - Ordinary Meeting Report

Well where does one start as it was a grand evening. We start at the beginning.

We took a vote and it was passed wholeheartedly. We will approach Jane Edmanson to be Patron of Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden. It was a tremendous proposal and hopefully it will turn out successfully.

Next a trip to Geelong Nurseries is on the agenda. Anyone interested will see Alan Partridge.

Djerriwarrh Festival is approaching fast and we will again be represented. It is a good time to show our support that we are truly helping Melton Council achieve its aims.

We were successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Grant for weeding and spraying equipment. Special mention was made to Jill for all her help in getting this grant. This was a job well done.

Plans are under way by MSC for \$130,000 set aside in the 2011/2012 MSC budget to erect toilets and also to commence the car parking area in the garden.

Now for the full filling news of the night. We welcomed Dave Pye who stood in for Barb. We had a workshop for Propagation for the 2012 MBG plantings. He demonstrated how to go about the plantings in great detail. In the end we (about 20 of us) planted 490 cuttings. A wonderful effort and hopefully we will see the rewards by everyone maturing and growing.

About 10 tomato plants were raffled. Everyone who won a plant will surely have tomatoes growing out of their ears.

Once again it was a truly great night. We all got our hands dirty.

Reporters: Les & Elaine

Fundraising at Bunnings

Thursday 22nd December

Sausage Sizzle

Assistance needed anytime 8am - 5pm

Please contact Margaret or Jill

FMBG have an article and mention in the latest edition of Campsis (No.37) see pages 6 & 18 at:
www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/campsis.htm

FMBG Presentations

Jill and John Bentley gave a presentation about the Melton Botanic Garden with emphasis on the Eucalyptus Arboretum to the Williamstown Garden Club in October. There were around 36 present including a number of members of the Friends of the Williamstown Botanic Garden. Good feedback was received and a \$100 donation was given to FMBG.



John presenting at the Williamstown Garden Club

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

Bunnings Spring Launch

FMBG were out again promoting the Melton Botanic garden in October at the Bunnings Melton Spring Launch. Thanks to all those who helped at the FMBG table.



Some of the crew at the Spring Launch FMBG table

Melton Botanic Garden Sign

You will now be able to confirm you are at the Melton Botanic Garden if you are travelling along Tullidge Street as the Melton Botanic Garden name is on the fence.



Sign on fence

Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Have you seen anyone wearing their new name badge? Would you like your own FMBG name badge?



A badge will cost you about \$18.

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 badge please see Jill Bentley.

FMBG Logo Badges



We have plenty of FMBG button badges. 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.

Clean Up and Waterwatch Day

Due to a huge amount of rain on the weekend of 8/9 October we had to abandon the clean-up day. The few who were hardy enough to turn up in the cold, wind, rain and mud made a decision to retreat to the comfort of Elaine's new home for morning tea.

The Club/MSG Grant for FMBG

We received on 7 Nov \$2,671 for caps, tops and mailmerge software for FMBG promotion
Thanks to Jill on a successful grant application

BGANZ Congress – October 20-22

John and Jill Bentley attended the BGANZ Congress in October held at the Albury Entertainment Centre. It was a great networking opportunity and many contacts were made. There was much interest in the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. The presentation given by John was well received by a large audience with follow up questions and good feedback was given to us during the congress on the presentation. We also had a small FMBG promotion table and showed the Melton Botanic Garden DVD on a small display screen.



John presenting at the BGANZ Congress on the Eucalyptus Arboretum – funding and partnerships



John at the BGANZ Congress FMBG display table

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.

See: www.bganz.org.au

Grow the Garden Days (GTGD)

Sunday 25th September was a beautiful day, in fact you could call it a wonderful spring day. Only trouble was we had to work. But on the other side of the coin we had a lot of helpers. We had to because the soil was rock hard. Back breaking work. Nevertheless, a lot of plants and shrubs were planted. Aaron supplied the water tank and well watered the trees in the Arboretum area as well as the new plants. Everyone worked extremely hard and the results will be surely seen in due time.

Again the ladies supplied a wonderful cup of tea. Well done everyone.

On October 30th we held an extended Grow the Garden Day (10am – 3pm). It was wet, cold and a miserable day to work but a few brave souls came. What they did was extraordinary. We all worked like Trojans. Ploughed through Ryans Creek, got stuck in the mud but kept going to the bitter end. We all worked as a team, like the car production assembly line. We ended up planting 14 boxes of plants with each box containing about 50 plants. Well done everyone. This makes up for all the days were not able to come because of bad weather. Lunch went down well together with a warm cup of tea.

Hopefully the next growing day will be a little bit warmer. Hope to see everyone there enjoying the day.

Report by Les and Elaine

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meetings is on Tuesday 29th November, 7.30pm at the Bentley's place.

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.

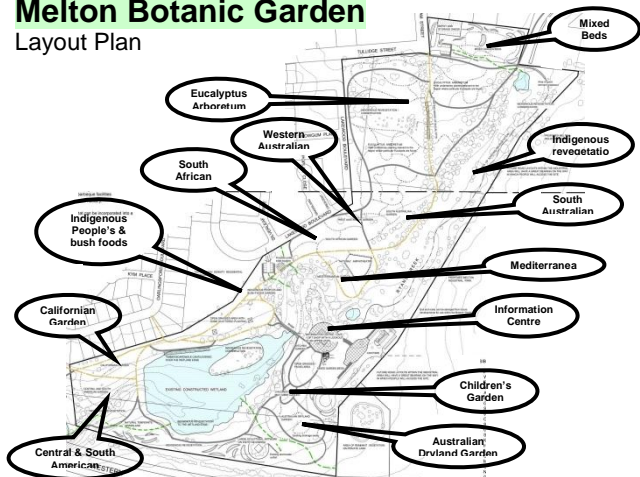
Please ensure that any potted plants you donate are saleable. This means they are healthy, planted in potting mix, in good pots and clean.



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?

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in China, Hong Kong, UK, Canada and the USA. 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.

2012 Calendar

We are well underway to planning exciting meetings, trips and speaker program for 2012. **If you have any suggestions please contact Janet Dyke.**

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

Ph: (03) 9747 0855 Fax: (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
	Corinne Cole
	Allan Benson
Safety Officer:	John Bentley
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)
 Email: editor@fmbg.org.au



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

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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