



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter November/December 2012

Growing Plants Growing People

No.23



Eucalyptus Arboretum North West Section Looking West - 14 October 2012 ©Photo by John Bentley

November to January FMBG Events

Djerriwarrh Festival: Saturday 10 November 2012.
FMBG stall all day.

FMBG November Meeting: Wednesday 14 November 7.30pm. Bruce Fordyce – American Travels.

Bus Trip: Sunday 18 November to Attila Kappitany's garden and Kuranga Native Nursery

Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 25 November 10am-noon. Eucalyptus Arboretum meet at Depot.

FMBG December Meeting: Wednesday 12 December 6.30pm. End-of-Year Celebration at Tony and Janet Dyke's place.

Regular Activity Groups

***Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum

***Lakers:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – Meet at the Lake

***Creekers:** Thursdays 10am-noon – Meet Ryans Creek



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"

Best Community or Not for Profit Organisation



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM



Melton is now a CITY!!!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wednesday 14th November
7.30pm

American Travels

Bruce Fordyce

This presentation covers some of the plants, gardens sights and scenes of Bruce and Sharon's visit to Canada and the USA.



For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

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.

BGANZ

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

See: www.bganz.org.au

Wednesday 12 December

6.30pm

End of Year Celebration

Janet and Tony Dyke's House

Well the end of the year is nearly here and it is time to celebrate all the great things that we have achieved in 2012.

This will be a special occasion for Janet and Tony as the Dyke's house has been acquired to make way for a bridge.

We will have the big raffle with many prizes donated by Melton Businesses and our corporate members.

BYO BBQ meat, seats, utensils etc

Members asked to bring a salad or dessert to share

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Renew Your Membership



We had 200 members by 30 June 2012

We are aiming to at least maintain this target for 2012/2013

Please ensure you renew and try to sign up a friend

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

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

On Sunday 7 October

With a good number of volunteers throughout the day and a steady flow of customers we raised a profit of \$1,044.50
Great work and thanks to everyone who helped.

FMBG Bus Trip

Attila Kappitany's Garden and Kuranga Native Nursery

Sunday 18th November

You may have seen Attilia's succulent garden featured on ABC Gardening Australia

This trip is nearly here so you need to book a seat on the bus as is a very popular trip.

This is a combined trip with the Melton Garden Club and we have booked two buses

In the afternoon we will visit Kuranga Native Nursery and Paperbark Café.

Cost is \$20 and needs to be paid to book your seat on the bus

Please contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761

Have you seen this Eucalypt?



Hint: Look in the eastern section of the arboretum
Do you know what species it is?

Birds in the MBG

Nora Peters was on her way home one evening in early October coming along the freeway and she spotted the Pelican in the photograph on the tree on the island. To take the photo she went to Lakeside Boulevard. This particular youngster was quite happy having a snooze in the tree.



Photos courtesy of Nora Peters (www.ozwildbirds.com)

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What's Flowering in the MBG



Swainsona galegifolia (Smooth darling pea) in flower in the Eucalyptus Arboretum.



Solanum laciniatum (Kangaroo Apple) near the new toilets

Congratulations

Janet Dyke has passed her agricultural chemicals course. This means we have 4 trained FMBG members to supervise weed spraying.

FMBG 10th Anniversary 2013

We are planning for our 10th anniversary in 2013. If anyone has any ideas for the celebration and events throughout the year, please let John or Jill know.

Toyota Award

Aaron Benson a very active FMBG member who won the use a hybrid Camry for a month for his work with FMBG. He brought the car to the Clean-Up Day on Sunday 13 October.

We were all very impressed.



Aaron in the Camry



Eucalyptus woodwardii (Lemon-flowered Gum)

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Reports by Les and Elaine

Monthly Meeting - 10 October 2012

We were informed in Margaret's Treasurers Report that we have to meet \$4,000.00 annually for ongoing costs such as water, electricity and insurance for depot. Hopefully from various sausage sizzle days and sales of plants at various festivals would go towards meeting the expenses.

The shed is progressing well. Electricians are installing lights and power. Toilets are slowly but surely being installed. Walls have been installed and doors are ready to be put in place.

On a brighter note everyone pitched in with the propagation of plants for Dave and Barb. To my calculation we propagated over 700 plants. With everyone helping, it only took about half an hour. Well done everyone.

Alan Partridge said there were only six seats left on the bus tour in November to Attila Kapitany's Garden. Hope everyone enjoys the trip. I think it will be worthwhile.

Clean-up Day Sunday 14 October.

This was one of the best days weather wise we had had for a long time. Also a very lucky day for Margaret as she almost stepped on a brown snake. Although only 15 ins long, they are still very dangerous. After all that we managed to collect over 15 bags of rubbish. Since the buildings opposite the gardens have been finished, there is less rubbish from these sites, nevertheless people are still discarding their rubbish in the gardens.

On a happier note, the toilets near the rotunda are half completed, electricity is being installed at the shed. Just waiting for the car park near the rotunda to be done and we can have a Happy Christmas.

Aaron showed us the new Camry Hybrid Sedan. Very nice indeed. Economy is 5L/100kms. Not bad at all.

Creekers

Creekers meet every Thursday and work on Ryan Creek indigenous revegetation.

Once again mulching was the main point of the operation. Also weeding has been tackled in earnest. Since the rainfall this season, the weeds have taken over and strangling the plants. I feel that our main objective is, save what we have achieved by weeding and mulching. Also summer will be upon us shortly and watering could take over as number one priority.

Thursday 14th October was a special day as Council staff had a tour of the Gardens. They were very impressed by what they saw and recommended more help could be investigated. This was very pleasing and goes to show what everyone at the Friends are trying to accomplish. Well done everyone.

Gumnuts Report

Gumnuts 20 September and 2 October.

Both days were sparsely attended but those who were there worked tirelessly. Mainly we mulched around the existing trees and plants. Also a lot of weeding was done.

On the 2nd October we managed to plant over 100 new plants from tubes. Watering was done by Dave and the rest of us mulched. A lot more work has to be done to save and maintain existing trees.

Gumnuts 16 October & Ryans Creekers 11, 18, and 25 October

I have linked all these days together because we all did basically the same type of work.

Firstly in each case we mulched, watered and weeded the areas designated. A few plants were planted in certain areas to supplement the existing growth. Allan Benson and his team sprayed weeds in the Arboretum area.

The weeds have grown and a lot more maintenance is required. Also with the rainfall starting to dwindle, more of the bucket brigade is necessary although the water tank is now available [we need to have a watering roster over summer – can you help?]

The dozen of us are doing great work but more help is always appreciated. A lot of the plants have survived. Putting guards around more plants has been successful. This is very pleasing and once the weeds are under control people will be able to see all the hard work that has been undertaken.

Grow the Garden Day 28 October.

The dozen of us were split into three groups. We worked on planting around the lake. Over 200 plants were planted. After planting 2 boxes of Wahlenbergia (Bluebells) some weeding was done to the Poa plants under the tree near the lake and near the bollards. On the bank a box of Black Wattle Acacias and a box of Allocasuarina verticillata (Drooping She-Oaks) were planted and guarded. After that Allan Benson watered all the plants. It was good to see some young children helping the older adults. A very good effort by all concerned.

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

Lots of weed spraying has been done and areas mulched.

Depot

The shed is being used and we are making great strides towards having power in the shed. Many thanks to Dave Peters for his work as Depot Project Manager – he has been at the shed early in the morning to meet the tradespeople and oversee the work throughout the day.

Great news as the toilets are now operational. If you are able to help with finishing the shed please contact Dave Peters - we need help painting the toilets and kitchen. We can now wash our hands and cups in the sink.

Powercor have installed the power connection point we are now waiting on AGL to install the meter box and then we will finally have electricity.

Many thanks to Underground Assets Group (UAG) a Melton company near the Depot who have donated their time, people and machinery to freely dig the power connection trench from the street to the shed. This is much appreciated and demonstrates the great support from local businesses towards the MBG.

The security system will go in when we have power. Melton City Council have made donations towards the depot 1) two 30,000L water tanks have been donated 2) a hot water service for tea and coffee is being donated 3) 20 chairs, two lounge chairs and a coffee table have been given to FMBG. Thanks to MCC for their support. Thanks also to Verna for donating a table.

We are seeking some funds to create a propagation area in the depot through CVGT and the team would undertake propagation in 2013 if all is successful.

If you can help in anyway please contact Dave Peters, Depot Project Manager (5367 3328).

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. We need things for the depot and shed. We do need to raise funds to fit-out the shed.

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



The plumbers



The water connection



Water tanks being placed



Water tanks in position



Running water

Sewer pipe



Chairs from MCC



The you know what



Path ready for concreting by CVGT team



The kitchen



UAG working on the power connection pit and trench



Members have a chat in the shed

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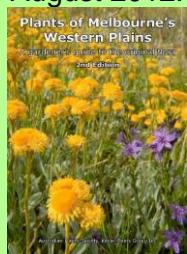
Powercor Sponsorship

A power connection pit near the corner of William Street and Tullidge Street has been installed by Powercor so we can connect the depot to the electricity network. This is a significant contribution to the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. FMBG greatly appreciates the sponsorship provided by Powercor.



Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains 2nd Ed.

FMBG have purchased a number of copies of this excellent book which was released in August 2012.



This book is available to purchase from Margaret Peters on 5367 3328

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

It is an excellent resource for members and you might like to purchase it as Christmas present for someone.

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 \$20 which includes GST.

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

If you would like one please see Jill Bentley.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly 7.30pm at the Bentley's house

Have a day out - see

CAPTURING FLORA

300 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN

BOTANICAL ART

Art Gallery of Ballarat

25 September - 2 December 2012

Capturing Flora will be the most comprehensive exhibition of Australian botanical art ever held in this country. It brings together over 300 images, the vast majority from the Art Gallery of Ballarat's collections.

Admission: \$12, Concession \$8, Child and Gallery Member Free

40 Lydiard Street, North Ballarat, Vic, 3350

Phone: 03 5320 5858

www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Djerriwarrh Festival

We had good weather and a great turnout of volunteers to make the day a success.

Thanks to everyone for their help at the Djerriwarrh Festival and those who did plant propagation for the plant sales.

We certainly interacted with the public in promoting the botanic garden and selling plants. We kept up our networking with MCC staff and councillors.



Plants for sale



MBG display



FMBG stand

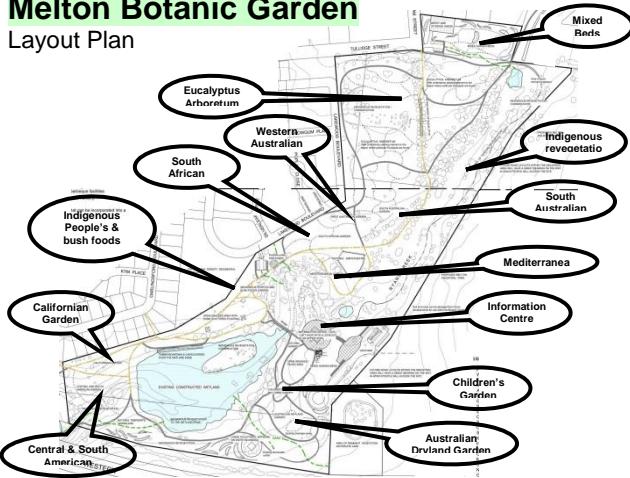


FMBG volunteers

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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 Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We had 206 members in 2011-2012. So please try to sign up a new member to help us keep a strong membership base.

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.

2013 Calendar

The calendar is now available. We are underway to confirming all the speakers for meetings and planning trips for 2013.

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 2011/12

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
	John Bentley
Safety Officer:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)
FMBG librarian:	

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

Newsletter:

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

please send them to: editor@fmbg.org.au

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