

# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

June 2008

## Landscape Design Expressions of Interest

Quite a few enquiries were received by Melton Shire Council (MSC) regarding the Landscape Design Brief after the advert appeared in The Age. A panel at MSC are now evaluating the submissions and expect to have a decision on the Landscape Architect to undertake the design by 20<sup>th</sup> June. The timelines for undertaking the landscape design are tight so there will need to be commitment by FMBG members to work with the landscape architect, community and MSC to achieve the landscape design for the Botanic Garden.

## Ryans Creek Project

A site walk around was conducted with Rod Thomas and Tony Herwerth from MSC in May. Alan Partridge and Daryl Akers had a further inspection to determine the appropriate area and requirements to begin planting. We have had one meeting on planning for the planting area. If you are interested in being involved in the planning group for this project please let the Executive know.

We have a list of appropriate plants for a Volcanic Plains Creekline Grassy Woodland environment.

We are sourcing plants from the Greybox and Grassland Nursery and Western Plains Flora Nursery. FMBG have a total of \$2,000 to spend on plants and stakes (so we know where we have planted something).

This is a joint project with the Melton Environment Group.

## Frogwatch

Five FMBG members recorded frog noises along Ryans Creek on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Janet Dyke is collating and submitting the recordings.



## Water Monitoring

Five FMBG members attended water testing training in April.

Mikala Peters, the Community Program Coordinator, Werribee Plains Waterwatch

came for a site visit with some FMBG members to the Botanic Garden area in May. She has arranged for us to borrow water testing equipment until we can purchase our own. We commenced water testing during the clean up day on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Mikala would like to come to the Botanic



Garden site sometime in the first half of July to do some training and show us how to calibrate the equipment. Anyone interested?

## Membership Renewals

FMBG members set-up a membership and information table at Woodgrove in May – thanks go to Janet, Lyn N, Jill and Margaret. One more membership day is planned for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

It is very important to show we have a large membership to get funding. In 2007/08 we had about 145 financial memberships which greatly impressed MSC and other groups we have spoken to.

## Renaming of Town Centre Park to the Melton Botanic Garden

On 29<sup>th</sup> May the FMBG Executive sent a letter to MSC requesting a renaming of the site. We are awaiting a response.

## Commonwealth Water Grant

FMBG are purchasing a trailer and equipment for clean up and maintenance activities.

## Potting and Propagating Days

The first day of this activity involved re-potting our stock plants we which sell at meetings and events. This was also a good social gathering. The next potting and propagation day is 10am Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June at Margaret Peters place, Hopetoun Park– 5367 3328

We also need many more pots.

So please recycle your pots by giving them to Margaret P.

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## Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Visit

We had a very enjoyable visit to the RMBG on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Even though cool we soon warmed up as we walked from one end of the gardens to the other. Margaret from the Friends of



RMBG guided us around with good explanations of the old, recent and upcoming garden beds.

Thanks to Diane for driving the bus and Alan for organising the outing.

## Clean Up Day

A successful clean up day was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June with 12 members attending. Good attendance considering it was a long weekend. We certainly stood out, with everyone wearing a florescent orange safety vest.

We have purchased the safety vests for people to wear when working in the Botanic



Garden area. We also displayed our FMBG banner by hanging it from the rotunda.

## Melton Events Planning Training

Allan B, Margaret P and Jill B attended training on how to run events in Melton. Margaret and Jill also recently attended the Moorabool Shire Event Planning Training. We

are now well prepared to conduct an event. Thanks.

Here is a poem from another of our talented members Lynette Rehling

## Rainforests

Trees stood majestic, rivers flowed clear  
Before the multinationals entered here  
The air we breathe then was fresh and clean  
Before it was polluted by heavy machines

So machines have 'degraded' without a care  
Leaving once beautiful land arid and bare  
Beautiful fauna and precious habitats are lost  
But do they stop to count the cost?

No, they continue to pollute air, land and sea  
Ignoring the fact that soon we may be  
Unable to clean up, and survive this bloody mess

Yes, our planet is doomed in the name of progress!

©Lynette Rehling  
July 2002



## Upcoming Activities

Social Dinner Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm – Melton Club

Please contact Lynette Rehling 9743 9034 so that we can book the places.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm Woodgrove Community Room – "How to make your Botanic Garden Grow"

Annual General Meeting coming up in August – nominations for positions will be called for in late June or early July.