

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

August 2009



Photo: Lake looking east at Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in August

9th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day at Melton Botanic Garden

12th Wednesday 7.30pm Annual General Meeting
Followed by supper and drinks to celebrate our achievements over the last year

13th Thursday & 23rd Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden – We will be planting
Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

25th Tuesday 7.30pm Executive Meeting
Bentley's place 9743 3819

Some dates for September:

3rd Thursday 10am-noon Special Clean Up and preparation for Open Day at Melton Botanic Garden

5th Saturday 11am - 2.30pm Open Day
Melton Botanic Garden

9th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting
Guest Speaker: Nora Peters - Birds of Melton

10th Thurs. and 27th Sun. 10-noon Grow the Garden
Meet Ryans Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

25th Friday 6.30pm - FMBG Social Dinner

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are held at the DJ Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South (Melways 342 K3) on the second Wednesday night of each month.

There is parking, easy access, good space, kitchen and toilets.

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

The 2009 FMBG calendar is on the website. You can also pick up a copy at our meetings.

Birds of Melton Nora Peters

Wed 9th September 7.30pm
DJ Cunningham Centre

Nora is an excellent photographer of wild birds and has been recognised for her skills and contribution.

View Nora's photos at: www.ozwildbirds.com



Meeting Information:

Please contact John or Jill Bentley 97433819

FMBG Library

We have books, DVDs and magazines in the library. Take a look at the library at the regular monthly meetings.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Monday 24th August at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

July Meeting – Debbie Reynolds

This was a great presentation on the volcanic plains grasslands. Excellent photos of plants and of Debbie's research activities. Good discussion and questions following Debbie's presentation. Some of the information should help us in our planting of Ryans Creek. So get out there and start scratching or disturbing the ground like a bandicoot (not a 4 wheel drive).



Debbie Reynolds

FMBG Open Day - September

Planning is well underway for an open day on Saturday 5th September at the Botanic Garden with a free BBQ, stalls, tours of the garden and activities.

By the time the next newsletter is published the Open Day will have happened. Don't miss your chance to help on the day – please contact Jill (9743 3819) or Margaret (5367 3328) for information on how you can participate.

Some ways in which can help are:

- Distribute flyers and notices
- Preparation of plants for sale at the Open Day at Margaret Peter's place 10am to noon Thursday 27th August
- Special Clean-Up Day for Open Day 10am to noon Thursday 3rd September
- Demonstration planting at Ryans Creek on Open Day
- Helping on a stall or being a guide

Publications at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Website

Floreo is the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Newsletter. Past issues can be accessed on line and are a good read.

See:

http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/about_us/publications

Page 4 of the autumn 2009 edition has a botanical sketch of a *Dracunculus vulgaris*. This is a plant we have on our list for the Melton Botanic Garden. A fact finding quiz for you – Which Melton Botanic Garden bed will it be in?

Two recent articles in the Leader Newspaper on FMBG

Did you see the articles in the local Leader newspaper?

One was on the naming of the site as the Melton Botanic Garden and signage to the garden on 7th July titled "Guide to the best seat out of the house". See:



<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/guide-to-the-best-seat-out-of-the-house/>

The other was about our planting on Ryans Creek and the Vision for Werribee Plains funding on 14th July titled "State grant for gardens". Jean and Aaron were stars in their photo.

Sustainable Gardening book

The Melton Shire Sustainable Gardening book is available on the Melton Shire website.

Go to the site, look under: *council services* → *environment* → *sustainability* → *your garden* and it is at the bottom of the page.

The main brochure is quite large and the cover is available separately. Full link is:

http://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=183&h=0

FMBG still have some hard copies and some may be available at the Melton Information Centre.

Melton Environment Group

Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 19th July at Don Nardella's Office Alexander Street Melton.

Vision for Werribee Plains Grant

FMBG received a \$19,000 grant for the revegetation of Ryans Creek. This is to be paid in instalments as we complete various milestones highlighted in the project plan. We have recently invoiced for \$8,500 to cover site preparation, weed spraying and purchase of plants. We have placed plant orders with Greybox & Grassland Indigenous Nursery (Newport Lakes) and Western Plains Flora (Wildwood).

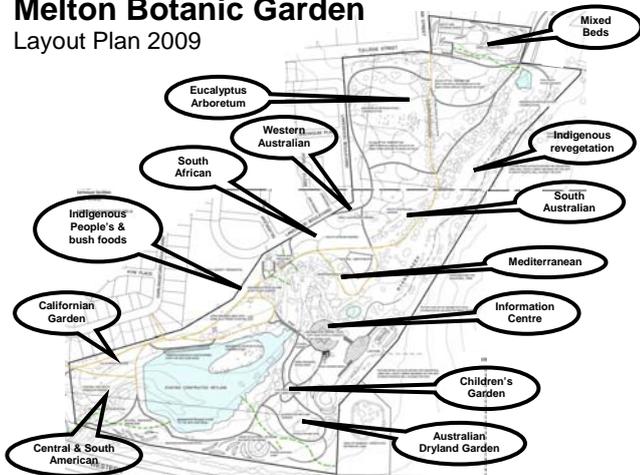
On Thursday 9th July we had our first Project Control Group meeting with Max Coster, Manager and Vivian Amenta, Project Officer Vision for Werribee Plains, Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Rodney Thomas, MSC. Also attending was Sam Bayley, Catchment Co-ordinator from Melbourne Water and Sasha Roos of the Waterwatch team. They were able to view the plantings we have undertaken with the Melbourne Water grant we received earlier this year.



Vision for Werribee Plain Project Group Site Meeting July 2009 (c) John Bentley

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We had 123 members and 4 corporate members at 30th June.

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

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.

FMBG at the Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand Victorian Region (BGANZ Vic) Forum

John Bentley is presenting a talk on 23rd September on "Plant collections for a new botanic garden" at the forum. The forum attracts about 150 participants from Australian and New Zealand Botanic Gardens. This will be a great opportunity to network with some high level people from other botanic gardens. It will help to get our message and what Melton is achieving to others in the botanic gardens arena.

Rob Small who worked with FMBG on the Melton Botanic Garden Concept Plan in 2006 will be giving a talk on the Colac Botanic Garden.

Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

We hope we have encouraged you to grow plants for sale. Plants sales raise more than a thousand dollars each year. This is an on-going activity so please keep propagating or help by starting to propagate for this spring. Margaret says we need to also think now about raising plants for sale in 2010. John is aiming to have 100 plants in propagation and available for sale at any time – what's your target?

Please look out for our propagation days. This activity is usually once a month on a Thursday. Propagating and selling plants is great fun and a fundraising activity that many Friends groups undertake. It is also a great way to catch up and learn about plants.

Friends of Geelong and Melbourne Botanic Gardens both have "Growing Friends" groups, they hold regular sales to raise funds.

If you need pots or have any for us to recycle or to enquire about the propagation days please contact Margaret on 5367 3328.

Logo Design

We displayed the logo ideas at the July monthly meeting. The most popular design was:



Janet is now working to get this version with minor changes into a suitable format.

Grow the Garden Days

The July Grow the Garden Days were a little cooler and windier but the sun still shone on us. Thanks again to Allan and Margaret for picking up the plants.

A big thankyou to everyone who planted or helped in other ways. It was great to see a good turnout on 9th July when we had the visitors from DSE and Melbourne Water.

Janet looked after everyone and supplied much needed refreshments.



Everyone hard at work growing the garden

Why not join us at the next Grow the Garden Days – 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday every month. We can assure you the Grow the Day is very therapeutic, great exercise and extremely enjoyable.

AGM - 2009 Positions

President: John Bentley
Vice-President: Allan Benson
Treasurer: Margaret Peters
Secretary: Janet Dyke
Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge
Executive members: Jill Bentley & Dave Peters
Safety Officer: Dave Peters
Public Officer: Leo Johnson
Returning Officer: Don Nardella



Verna and Margaret pushing the barrow (maybe?)



Our Melbourne Water Grant project sign



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

August 9th Clean up Day

A huge amount of rubbish had blown into the garden with the recent strong winds. Unfortunately much of it was building debris from the adjacent housing estate. Bags of litter and foam blocks were picked up. Councillor Sophie Ramsey popped in. It is great to have MSC support in our activities and endeavours.

Well done everyone the place looks much better. Don't forget the special clean up day on Thursday 3rd September 10am to noon so the garden area can look presentable for Open Day.



Cr. Sophie Ramsey & some FMBG members plus Will a project student from Victoria University (2nd from right)



Les and Elaine having a well earned break



Having a good time and a chat after the clean up



The loaded up ute – we also had to use the trailer



Aaron, Allan, Jill and Janet with the pile of rubbish

For your diary – next regular clean up day Sunday 11th October

FMBG Corporate Members 2009 / 2010

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337
p: (03) 9747 0855 f: (03) 9747 9593
<http://www.westernland.com.au>

Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338
Ph: (03) 9743 5201
Manager: Peter Earl

Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337
Ph: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

Transform Life Coaching Solutions

Melton VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9746 7558
Manager: Karen Nikakis
Email: karen.nikakis@bordnet.com.au
Web: www.kirachronicles.com.au

Melton Radio 3RIM– Garden Design Roy Gabb Memorial Garden

FMBG was asked in June to design a garden for the Melton radio station 3RIM (979fm). 3RIM wanted to create a garden in memory of Roy Gabb who was a founding member and presenter at the station. He hosted the gardening show for a number of years.

Allan Benson, Alan Partridge and Jill Bentley undertook this task. After consulting with 3RIM for their requirements, they investigated appropriate plants and produced a garden layout plan. In July 3RIM was greatly appreciative of the plans and the descriptions and pictures of the suggested plants in the presented report. Thanks to Allan, Alan and Jill this is a great link to another group in Melton. We now have our own garden design team.

3RIM were keen to get the garden in. They had a working bee on Sunday 9th August where they got all the sleepers in. Mowbray College are donating soil and will be dropping off the soil during the week. They plan to finish on the weekend of 15th and 16th August. They will most likely be moving soil around on Saturday and doing the planting on the Sunday.

They have invited anyone from FMBG who is willing to help out at the weekend to make them more than welcome, as some of the radio station people who helped on the first weekend can't make it the next weekend. They are also inviting Beryl Gabb to attend on Sunday so that she can see the progress.

You might like to take at least 5 minutes to have a look at the Roy Gabb memorial Garden just near Mowbray College on Centenary Avenue.



Bob Turner and Jill Bentley discussing the work to be done



The garden layout taking shape

Don't forget to pay a visit or help out at the working bee.

Skills Enhancement

A number of FMBG members are gaining new skills, refreshing and enhancing their skill set.

OHS Workshop

Six FMBG members attended a whole day OHS workshop held at Werribee Open Plains Zoo on 15th July. They have gained knowledge about improving OHS practices.



Attendees at the OHS workshop

MS Publisher Course

Allan and Jill signed up for the MS Publisher course held in July/August at the launching Pad via the Melton South Community Centre. They decided they needed to improve their computer skills and look to producing flyers for FMBG. So lookout for the new upcoming flashy FMBG flyers.

MS PowerPoint Course

Allan, Alan and Jill have booked into a three session by two hour MS PowerPoint course starting on Friday 28th August at the Launching Pad. FMBG have the equipment to show PowerPoint presentations. It is great to see members investing in their skills improvement to be able give presentations. If you are interested please contact the Melton South Community Centre, 26 Exford Rd, Melton South, 9747 8576 to enrol – cost is \$33, there is also a concession rate.

oooOOOooo