

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

July 2009



Photo John Bentley ©2009

Photo: Lake looking east at Melton Botanic Garden

What's On In July

8th June Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting:

Guest Speaker – Debbie Reynolds speaking on Indigenous Grasslands - DJ Cunningham Centre

9th Thursday & 26th Sunday July 9.30am-noon Grow the Garden – We will be planting

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

19th July Sunday 9:30 am Field Trip

Point Cook Coastal Park and Newport Lakes
Please note this trip has been cancelled

30th June Tuesday 7.30pm Executive Meeting

Bentley's place 9743 3819

Some dates for August:

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

12th Wednesday 7.30pm Annual General Meeting

13th Thursday & 23rd Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

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.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th August 7.30pm
DJ Cunningham Centre

Following the AGM we will have a social gathering and celebration of our achievements

Nomination forms to Secretary Janet Dyke by 5th August

More information:

Please contact John or Jill Bentley 97433819

Donation of Plant and Gardening Books for FMBG Library.

Carolyn McGavin has kindly donated some plant and garden books from her late husband Max's collection. There are some good books on Australian Natives. Thanks Carolyn they will appear shortly in the FMBG library after we have labelled them and acknowledged the source.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Monday 27th July at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

June meeting - Attila Kapitany

Great reports have been received from some of those attending the meeting. Attila certainly had people laughing, listening and he showed some spectacular photos of unusual West Australian plants. Now don't forget when you are on your next trip out don't stop at the rest stop, or where the buses stop or where people stop for other things, keep on driving, pull up at least 5 kms down the road from the bus stop and take a look around. Also if you get a flat tyre take the opportunity to have a look around and get some photos of the plants.



Attila in action



Some of Attila's range of succulents

FMBG Open Day - September

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

Vision for Werribee Plains Grant

FMBG received a grant from Vision for Werribee Plains towards revegetation of Ryans Creek in the Melton Botanic Garden. Grant recipients were announced by Gavin Jennings the Minister for Environment and Climate Change the other week at a function held at Werribee Open Plains Zoo.

See:

[http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-environment-climate-change/first-of-\\$10-million-grants-to-help-green-werribee-plains.html](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-environment-climate-change/first-of-$10-million-grants-to-help-green-werribee-plains.html)
[Ed: suggest you google the announcement as this is a long URL]

FMBG received \$19,000 in direct funding. The total project is about \$50,000 with in kind funding from FMBG and the Shire of Melton. Fifteen projects were funded in rounds 1 and 2 of the V4WP grant – so this is a great success.

Thursday 9th July we have our first Project Control Group meeting with Max Coster, Manager, Vision for Werribee Plains, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Rodney Thomas, MSC and in attendance will be Sam Bayley, Catchment Co-ordinator from Melbourne Water (we received a grant earlier this year from Melbourne Water). This is an onsite meeting.

We will also have FMBG members onsite from 9.30am-noon as part of regular Grow the Garden Days. They will be planting along Ryans Creek. So a good opportunity for a story and photos.

If you have major industry contacts or know of sources of major funding to develop beds in the botanic garden please tell us. The cost to develop the whole garden and infrastructure on current estimates will be about \$7m.

Sustainable Gardening book

The Melton Shire Sustainable Gardening book is now 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.

Melton Environment Group

Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday 15th July
Don Nardella's Office 7.30pm

Horse Poo Fungus at Botanic Garden



What's this funny stuff on the ground? It was seen under a tree near the eastern rotunda on the last clean up day.

Can you spot any below? (hint: you should find 4 clumps and no taking any home for the vege garden)



It is real - *Pisolithus arhizus*, common name Horse Dung Fungus (thanks to David Pye and Cathy Powers for the identification of the fungus).

Managing Big Grants Workshop

Seems this was not as good as anticipated. We had expected ideas as to how to set up and manage a large project. Even though this was considered it was dedicated to Land Care. That said we got some good things out of the workshop:

1. Bass Land Care have a project management frame work that sounds very good. We will be following up with them about their framework.
2. Bass Land Care also have had an office built of polystyrene double glazed windows etc may be worth a holiday to have a look. They are having an open day in September.
3. We were able to learn from others who have done it before.
4. UBG land care have nett gain approach of 10 times vegetation replaced as that removed

FMBG Social Dinner – Melton Club

We had a great social night at the Melton County Club. This time we occupied two large tables.



RHSV 160th Celebration

Jill and John attended the 160th Celebration meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Insurance questions were asked and answered – more about this at the next exec meeting.

John said a brief hello to Jane Edmondson. In her speech she talked about new gardening developments and guess what? FMBG got a big mention!

Good networking and a very enjoyable day with around 200 people attending.

We also said “Hi” to Attila Kippitany and passed on the good comments we had heard about his recent talk to FMBG. We said next time he speaks at an FMBG meeting we will advertise him as an internationally renowned speaker – he is getting some gigs in the US.

The business cards came in handy and distributed to people we talked to.

Congratulations RHSV.

Special Council Meeting on Draft Budget

On 17th June Wednesday John Bentley (President) and Allan Benson (Vice-President) addressed a special budget submission sitting of Melton Council.

The following extracts are from the meeting minutes which can be found on the MSC webpages:

Verbal Submissions in support of written submissions:

Mr John Bentley and Mr Allan Benson -Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens.

Mr Bentley and Mr Benson advised Councillors that Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens Committee have approximately 120 members and a large number of supporters. There is growing awareness of the Botanic Gardens Group within the community and momentum is building. The group is also establishing some prominence within the region. Their requests to Council through this submission are for directional signage and site signage to the Botanic Gardens. Secondly naming of the reserve as Melton Botanic Gardens and thirdly Council commitment to establishing a liaison person within Council's organisation to act as a single point of contact to assist the group with grant preparation and to develop an MOU with the group and the development plan for the gardens. The priority of the group would be for the liaison person.

On resumption, the Committee made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens

That Council proceed with re-naming of Town Centre Park to Melton Botanic Garden and approve the erection of directional and basic site signage for the Melton Botanic Garden to be funded from recurrent signage budget and further Council not approve the appointment of a Project Manager for Melton Botanic Gardens.

MSC briefing session

A timely booking opportunity in light of the above as on Monday 6th July the FMBG Executive presented to an MSC briefing session with Counsellors and seniors MSC officers. We presented information about FMBG and the study report for the landscape design of the Melton Botanic garden. We had good constructive dialogue and discussion on the development of the Melton Botanic garden.

This meeting further strengthens out great relationship with the Melton Shire as we progress in partnership to develop the Melton Botanic Garden.

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

John Bentley is presenting 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 Garden. This will be 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 out there.

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

Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

We hope we have encouraged you and your plants are growing. Plants sales bring in a couple of thousand dollars. This is an on-going activity so please keep propagating or help by starting to propagate for this spring and Margaret says we need to think about plants for 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.

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

Here are some samples from David at Grafx'n'Signs of what we have been considering for a logo:



Grow the Garden Days

The June Grow the Garden Days were a little cooler but the warm hearts, a bit of sunshine and some hard work certainly displaced any coolness. Thanks again to Allan and Margaret for picking up the plants from Western Plains Nursery.

A big thankyou to everyone who planted the plants or helped in other ways.

We look a great outfit with the FMBG trailer and trailer with water tank.

Janet looked after everyone and supplied much needed refreshments. There was also water in the creek. The pictures tell the story.



Myles and Elaine planting Dianella Revoluta



Some of the crew working away



Aaron wetting a box of plants to be ready for planting



Allan, Jill and, Aaron

We have purchased from our funds a petrol driven auger to make the holes for planting.

Why not join us on 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.



Everyone's gone planting

June 14th Clean up Day

Bags of litter were collected by 13 people at the clean up day. Mikala Peters from Melbourne Water also came along to assist Janet and Jill with water testing.



Aaron with his ute and the load of rubbish



Loads full from both sides



Janet beavering away



Jill, Aaron and Allan with rubbish drop off

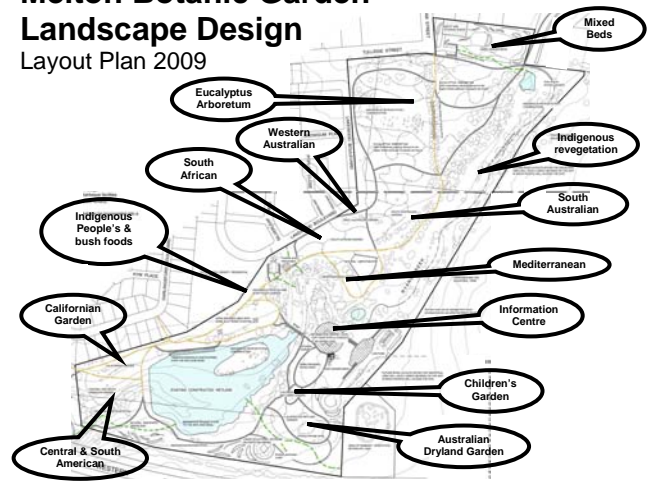
For your diary – next clean up day Sunday 9th August

Landscape Design Plans

We have a copy of the study report containing the layout and planting plans in the FMBG Library. We also have a CD containing the report and the layout and planting plans. The plans are in both Adobe Acrobat and AutoCAD formats.

Melton Botanic Garden Landscape Design

Layout Plan 2009



Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st.

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We currently have 123 members and 3 corporate members.

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.



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