

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

March 2009



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What's On?

11th March Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting

Plant propagation – Barb Pye
Community Room, Woodgrove Shopping Centre

12th March Thursday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

16th March Monday Grant Preparation Evening

Bentley's place 9743 3819

22nd March Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

27th March Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner

Golden Fleece Hotel (note change of venue)
To book please call Lynette Rehling 9747 9034

29th March Sunday – Diggers Rest Festival

FMBG Stall – if you can help. Call Margaret 5367 3328

31st Match Tuesday 7.30pm Executive Meeting

Bentley's place 9743 3819

1st-5th April Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show – Royal Exhibition Buildings - FMBG hanging basket of indigenous plants on display and information stand showing botanic plans – come along and look out for FMBG.

Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm

Plant propagation

Barb Pye

Community Room, Woodgrove Shopping Centre, High Street, Melton

Please contact: John or Jill Bentley 97433819

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who participated in the sausage sizzle on 21st February. It was a cool start but the day warmed up the crowds turned out.

We raised \$1201.

We have recently purchased some water Thermos air pots to provide hot water for tea and coffee at our activities. We have purchased some Eskies to keep sausages, drinks and food cool at the sausage sizzles and other events.

Clean Up Australia Day

The Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden were cleaning up the Botanic Garden site for Clean Up Australia. A great turn out with 18 participants.

Many of us then went to Hannah Watts to celebrate with a BBQ the great clean up achievement with other volunteers who had been cleaning up across Melton.



FMBG members at Hannah Watts Park



Bev enjoying removing the rubbish (?)



This year we recycled using the yellow bags



At the end - everybody and some of the rubbish collected



Verna finding a treasure and recycling it

Landscape Design Plans

The final design is now even closer. We should have the final plans on display at the International Flower and Garden Show 1-5th April at the Royal Exhibition Buildings.

The landscape designer are finalising their report for MSC.

Grants Update

Thank you to Allan Benson and Rodney Thomas for their work on preparing grant applications in early Feb 2009. FMBG submitted a grant to the Vision for Werribee Plains Grants Program for restoration of Ryans Creek in the Botanic Garden area.

Congratulations are due as in the last week we have been informed of the success of the application. Around \$19,000 will be coming in April to assist in the restoration of Ryan's Creek. We have commenced plant orders for the restoration and have ordered the water tank.

Learn how to use a notebook and projector - Commonwealth Volunteer Grant Program \$3,200

We have ordered the notebook and projector to train our members in being able to use the equipment and software to prepare and present information.

We will use the equipment for our meetings and promotions to other groups. Look out for the training. Please let Jill know if you are interested in joining the program.

Where is the Botanic Garden?

The new fold-up Melton map in the Information Centre shows Town Centre Park plus in brackets "Proposed Melton Botanic Garden". Melways map 337 C10 has "Tullidge Street Reserve" and the UBD calls the area "Town Centre Park". We need to continue our lobbying to have the whole area called the "Melton Botanic Garden". So get out there and promote the message.

Growing the Garden Days

Sunday 22nd March saw about 16 friends undertake some serious weeding at Ryans Creek. Piles of Blanket Weed/Carpet Weed (*Galenia pubescens*) were removed.

We need to focus on watering and weeding in preparation for the next planting in May.



Alan giving members a briefing



Some of the piles of Galenia



Aaron loading the ute



The weeding crew

“Growing the Garden Days” are held on the 2nd Thursday and also 4th Sunday of each month.

Why not join us next time – help grow the garden and have fun doing it.

Getting the message out there

Many thanks to Jill in getting the message out. Jill gave a presentation on 11th February about the proposed Melton Botanic Garden to the Sunshine Garden Club.

Jill also gave a presentation on 24th February to about 20 volunteers from the Melton Information Centre along with support from Allan Benson and Alan Partridge. This will in turn get the message of the Botanic Garden to visitors to the Information Centre.

On the night of 24th February John, Jill and Alan Partridge gave a presentation on the Botanic Garden to the Melton Garden Club.

If you know any groups who like a presentation we can organise for someone to speak to them.

FMBG Proposed Change of Meeting Venue for 2009

The executive have been investigating some alternative meeting venues. Whilst Woodgrove is a great venue for holding the meeting, with good space, kitchen and toilet facilities access with the stairs is a disadvantage to many members and an OHS concern for people carrying things into the venue.

There has also been a recent change to Woodgrove policy in that any retail paying group

will get priority and could displace any of our booked nights.

After much searching the Executive is suggesting we move our meeting to the DJ Cunningham Centre in Melton South. It will cost us \$5 per hour and was the only council facility available on the second Wednesday night of each month. It has parking, easy access, good space, kitchen and toilets.

The motion to change venue from April will be put to vote at the Wednesday night meeting on 11th March.

Open Day - September

We are planning an open day the Botanic Garden in September with a free BBQ and tours of the garden.

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

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

Business Cards and Promotion

We have some business cards for handing out at promotional events – Please ask Margaret or Jill if you need some.

Do you still want to receive this newsletter?

We are still reviewing our membership list and will be removing non-financial members from our email list and newsletter distribution.

You need to ensure you have renewed your membership to continue to receive FMBG emails.

Membership

If you have not caught up on fees for 2008/09 please take the opportunity to renew or join at one of our activities.

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

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.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 31st March at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.



Photo Con Nikakis ©2008



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