

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

October 2009



Photo John Bentley ©2009

Photo: Billabong Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in October

8th Thursday 10am to about 2pm Grow the Garden

– We will be planting at least 2,000 plants

Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

* Note no Grow the Garden on Sunday 25th - see field trip

10th Platypus Festival FMBG Stall 11am-4pm

Tamar Drive Melton South

If you can help at the FMBG stall please call

Margaret 5367 3328

11th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day &

Waterwatch at Melton Botanic Garden

14th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting: Flowering Plants

*Bring your flowers to the meeting

22nd Thursday 10am-noon Propagation Day

Margaret Peters' Place 5367 3328.

25th Sunday 9.00am Field Trip

Organ Pipes and Woodlands Park

Contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761 for details

What's flowering in October?

Wednesday 14th October 7.30pm

DJ Cunningham Centre

Members participation night – bring
along samples of flowers from your
garden to show and tell



Meeting Information:

Please contact John or Jill Bentley 97433819

What's on in November:

7th Saturday between 8am - 5pm Djerriwarrh

Festival Parade and Street Stall

All hands on deck to help at anytime during the day
and/or be in the parade with FMBG

11th Wednesday 7.45pm Special General Meeting

Amendments to FMBG Constitution, followed by:

8.15pm Meeting

Guest Speaker on Frogs of Melbourne and Melton

**12th Thurs and 22nd Sun. 10-noon Grow the
Garden**

Meet 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) at 7.30pm on the second
Wednesday night of each month.

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

Special General Meeting 11th November

A Special General Meeting has been called on
the 11th November, 2009 at 7.30pm for a
7:45pm start to propose amendments to the
Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc
(FMBG) Constitution.

The current Constitution can be found on the
FMBG Website.

This meeting will be followed by our ordinary
meeting with a guest speaker on frogs of Melton
and Melbourne.

Executive Committee

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

Vision for Werribee Plains Grant

We had a write up on the project in the V4WP No.5 Newsletter. Here is the article:

Friends of Melton Botanic Garden – Restoration of Ryans Creek

The Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens aim to foster and promote the development of a botanic garden within Town Centre Park.

This project will enhance the environmental, aesthetic and cultural values of Ryans Creek tributary which runs the length of the park.

Project partners include the Shire of Melton and Melbourne Water.

A very successful planting day was held on the 25th September, with over 3300 plants put in. Conservation Volunteers Australia assisted on the day, planting 1,580 seedlings.

While overall the project is running ahead of schedule, the FoMBG have been surprised by how weedy the site has become, with many Ash trees regenerating.

Their next task will be to slash and poison this woody weed.



FoMBG volunteers enjoying a well earned break at the end of the planting day.

Website of the month

Take a look at the website of Lambley Nursery and Gardens: www.lambley.com.au

Follow the link "The Gardens at Lambley".

The nursery has a good range of Mediterranean plants and Mediterranean climate plants.

David Glenn the owner of Lambley recently said at the BGANZ Forum that his Lambley garden philosophy is: "wanting to grow the best plants not a botanical collection". So he is striving to grow plants that are showy and look good visually plus do well in our changing climate, as you will no doubt see from the photos on the website.

We are considering a 2010 field trip to Lambley and a nearby botanic garden.

Grow the Garden Days

The Grow the Garden Days have been a great success so far this year. Since May we have planted 10,609 plants with 2,200 on hand to plant on Thursday 8th October. Well done everyone. Just a few more planting days left this year. Then we will be into weeding and watering. Take a walk along Ryans Creek and see the progress.



Conservation Volunteers helping at a special GTG Day

Why not join us at the next Grow the Garden Days – 10am-noon 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday every month. We can assure you the Grow the Day is very therapeutic, great exercise and extremely enjoyable.

Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

Next Propagation Day is on Thursday 22nd October 10am-noon at Margaret Peters' Place.

Djerriwarrh Festival is on at the start of November. We raise funds through plant sales at the festival so please start or continue to propagate plants for our sales.

This is an on-going activity so please keep propagating or help by starting to propagate for sales in 2010.

Please look out for our propagation days. 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.

FMBG Library

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

Recent purchases: Flora of Melbourne and Weeds of the South-East.

Gardening Australia Expo Melbourne

We had great success with our stand at the Gardening Australia Expo. We met many people from the Shire of Melton, from the west and north and other parts of Melbourne and Victoria. A number of people reported hearing the FMBG segment on 3AW.

Steven Ryan, John Patrick, Angus Stewart and Sophie Thomson presenters on the Gardening Australia Show now know about the Melton Botanic Garden. We made some good contacts as well as getting the message about the Melton Botanic Garden out.



Allan Benson at the FMBG Expo stand

Thanks to Allan Benson, Margaret and Dave Peters, Lynette Rehling, Jill and John Bentley, Janet Dyke and Alan Partridge for helping at the stand.

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

John Bentley's talk about the Melton Botanic Garden went well. This was a great opportunity to network with some high level people from other botanic gardens. Many botanic gardens people now know what Melton is striving to achieve. There were around 140 participants at the forum.



Participants at the BGANZ Forum Ballarat

MSC Community Grant

FMBG have been successful in obtaining an MSC Community Grant funded by The Club at Caroline Springs. The project called "Hear FMBG" is for FMBG to purchase a portable PA system for use at our meetings and activities. The cheque for the equipment was presented to FMBG at a ceremony held at The Club on Tuesday 6th October.

Thanks to Jill Bentley on the work and submission of the grant application.

Bunnings Spring Launch

Thanks to Margaret for organising the FMBG table. Thanks also Lynette Rehling, Elaine Neely, Verna Reed, and William Blinkhorn who helped at the Spring Launch. It was another great opportunity to promote the Melton Botanic Garden.

Meeting with the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

On 14th September, Rod Thomas (MSC), Don Nardella MLC and members of the FMBG Executive met with Richard Barley the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne at the Shire Offices. In the meeting we discussed the history of FMBG, the plans for Melton Botanic Garden and possible connections with RBGM. Richard said that RBGM could offer advice and consultancy services. He provided some feedback on the MBG plans. We then escorted Richard on a tour of the MBG.

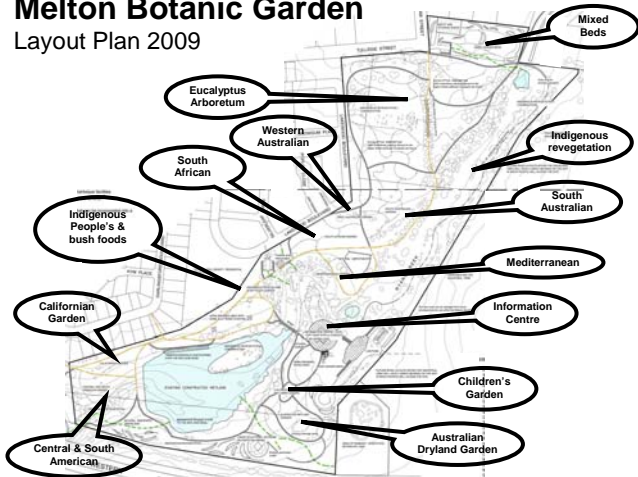


At MBG with Richard Barley (2nd from left)

MSC may use the RBGM weed consultancy service to check the lists of plants proposed for planting in the MBG for weediness potential.

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. To date we have just over 100 members for 2009-2010 and 5 corporate members.

Single - \$10, Single concession or student -\$5, Household/Concession - \$20/\$10, Associate - \$20, 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.

Native Seed Collection Workshops

The Port Philip & Westernport CMA is running three Community Native Seed Collection Workshops in Werribee, Melton and Bacchus Marsh.

Bacchus Marsh workshop is Thursday 15th October.

Melton workshop is Tuesday 15th November.

Contact Tim Bloomfield on 9218 5615 or tim.bloomfield@ppwcoma.vic.gov.au to register.

Given the scale of the Melton Botanic Garden this is something we should look to train up some native seed collectors for our Ryans Creek revegetation project and other indigenous areas of the MBG. Please consider attending a workshop.

For details and to register online:
www.growwest.com.au

FMBG Corporate Members 2009 / 2010

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

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: kstnikakis@gmail.com
Web: www.kirachronicles.com.au

Western Land Services

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

Your Committee

President: John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President: Allan Benson (9746 6641)
Treasurer: Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary: Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members: Jill Bentley (9743 3819) & Dave Peters (5367 3328)
Safety Officer: Dave Peters (5367 3328)



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

Newsletter:

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