



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter June 2010

No.6



Photo John Bentley ©2009

## What's on in June

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Grow the Day with help from Cubs and Scouts 10am-12noon with free sausage sizzle**  
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

**9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting:**  
Guest Speaker from RICHGRO, producers of garden products

**10<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden**  
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch**  
Melton Botanic Garden meet at rotundas

**25<sup>th</sup> Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner**  
To book please contact Lynette 9747 9034

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden**  
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden



**FMBG Meeting**  
**9th June Wednesday 7.30pm**  
Guest Speaker from RICHGRO producers  
of garden products

There will be good tips for gardening and  
may be some give aways

DJ Cunningham Centre, Exford Rd, Melton South,  
Melways 342 K3

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

## What's on in July

**8<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 10-noon Grow the Garden**  
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

**14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting**  
**Guest Speaker: John Arnott** - Royal Botanic  
Gardens Cranbourne – Botanic Gardens and their  
role in plant conservation

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden**  
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

## FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are usually 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, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

## FMBG logo badges

Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public etc – we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery

## AGM and FMBG Executive Positions

The AGM is the 11th August. We need an Executive Committee of eight. Please start to consider yourself or anyone you know who should be nominated for an executive position. The AGM is only 3 months away – so put your thinking and motivation caps on.

## Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

## Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

We have plant sales throughout the year.

If you wish to assist with propagation and growing some plants please contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328

## Eucalyptus Arboretum Working Party

The third meeting of the Eucalyptus Arboretum Working Party was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

This project is a partnership between the Australian Plants Society Melton & Bacchus Marsh Group, Melton Shire Council, and FMBG.



Photo: Plants sub-group meeting

An Expression of Interest (Eoi) for a major grant of \$250,000 has been submitted to Vision for Werribee Plains. We are now in discussion with V4WP and others regarding the Eoi and matching contributions totalling \$250,000.

If you would like to receive information or contribute to the Working Party or sub-groups please contact David Pye. David has a list of all the documents that are available.

The arboretum is a three year project.

The project requires several thousand plants including not only 550 plus Eucalypts but 20,000 understorey shrubs, grasses and ground covers such as Eremophilas, Acacias, Grevillias, etc.

Project Manager: David Pye 5428 9369 or [dabpye@gmail.com](mailto:dabpye@gmail.com)

## Website of the Month - AIBG

A number of members have visited the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens at Mildura over the last couple of months. Recently six members attended the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference held at the gardens. We were all impressed so thought it appropriate for AIBG to be the June website of the month.

See: [www.aibg.org.au](http://www.aibg.org.au)



Do you know what plant is on their logo?

The AIB garden was created by the friends and they also manage the garden. The local Councils work really well to support the gardens and friends. The Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens work hard to keep it looking it flourishing. They work in the gardens, the café and do important odd jobs around the place. Through grants and other income such

as functions and weddings they are able to employ 5 gardeners and one education officer. They have used Green Corps and other voluntary labour over the last 20 years to help make the garden what it is today. Their work should be a great inspiration to us.

## Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainability Awards - finalists

FMBG were nominated for the KAB Sustainability Awards in the category "Community Government Partnerships".

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April Jill, Allan and John gave a presentation showing how we met the award criteria to the judge. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the finalists were announced. In the sustainable cities awards for the category Community Government Partnerships the finalists are:

1. Frankston City Council - Sustainable Homes in Frankston – Community Renewal in Action
2. Moonee Valley City Council - Green Precinct Project
3. Whittlesea City Council - HACC Sustainability Project
4. Melton Shire Council - Melton Botanic Gardens - Friends of Melton Botanic Garden

We have made it to the final. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Fingers crossed.

## FMBG Library

Jean Partridge is the FMBG librarian. We have books, DVDs and magazines in the library. The library is on display at the regular monthly meetings.

Many thanks to Neutrog ([neutrog.com.au](http://neutrog.com.au)) who have given the FMBG library a complimentary signed copy of Jane Edmanson's new book "From the Ground Up".

## Who would be a great MBG Patron?

Who would you choose as a patron for the Melton Botanic Garden or FMBG?

We are still on the search for a patron.

The suggestions are coming in slowly. So have a think and put in your suggestions.

We have not determined any criteria so keep your mind open put your thinking cap on then send us a name(s) together with a reason why they would be suitable.

Suggestions to: [friends@fmbg.org.au](mailto:friends@fmbg.org.au)

or John @ 9743 3819

**It's Time to take or find some photos for the FMBG Photo Competition**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm we have the Annual General Meeting but more exciting still is the FMBG photo competition. This is for members to display some of their best and favourite photos.

Categories include: Wildlife and plants, botanic garden scenes, flowers, close-up of plants, people and botanic gardens, objects and plants.



*Fuschia Gum (E.forrestiana) Melton Botanic Garden*

Bring your photos on the night for display. The more the merrier for a Champagne celebration.

**Report - Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference 2010 May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

The conference was hosted by Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens and supported by the Shire of Wentworth Council and the Mildura Rural City Council.

The conference was attended by over 80 friends from around the country. Most friends were predominately from SE Australia. Six members of FMBG attended the conference. This was a great commitment as they paid for their registration, accommodation, meals, travel and time to be there. However, it was really worthwhile as we made many contacts and learned what other groups are doing.

We gave a presentation at the conference on the development of the landscape design plan and what has been achieved towards the Melton Botanic Garden. We had a display which also produced much interest and discussion.

The conference commenced with a welcome opening at the Mildura Information Centre. We heard many good presentations throughout the two days and have much to take away and digest. The conference included a walking tour of new indigenous section created and sponsored by the friends and a train ride (carriages pulled by a tractor) of the major garden areas (it is 160+hectares). See website of the month on page 2.



*Conference Delegates in the Magenta Room at the Botanic Garden*



*FMBG members in front of the FMBG display*



*Outside the front of the Friends Cafe and Gift Shop*



*Tractor train taking us around the gardens*

## Support FMBG and help create Sustainable suburbs in the West



Do you want to save money on bills and be more sustainable at home but don't know where to start?

Climate change is now an issue that affects everyone. Sustainable Suburbs is a home improvement program run by councils in the Western Region of Melbourne to help you save money on bills by improving the environmental performance of your home.

This council program offers participants:

- FREE home assessment - water, waste and energy
- FREE information sessions
- FREE light globe and showerhead exchange
- DISCOUNTS on a large variety of quality products and services
- REBATES from state and federal governments
- RELIABLE information that is easy to understand

As a **special offer** for Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens, Envirogroup will donate \$10 for each member who signs up for the free home assessment.

**All you have to do is register for your FREE home assessment and select Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens in the "How you heard" field.**

Register online at:

[www.envirogroup.com.au/sustainablesuburbs](http://www.envirogroup.com.au/sustainablesuburbs)

OR call 1300 206 113 and mention "Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens".



## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser 30 May

A great effort by Allan, Bev, Verna, Jenny, Lyn, Alan P, Alan Bell, David, Dave and Margaret. Margaret led the team well. Even though it was a cold overcast Sunday we made a profit of \$928.

Thanks and congratulations to all who helped. These funds are to be used towards purchase of a Water Testing kit.

## Grow the Garden Days 10am-noon

Three Grow the Garden Days in June!!!

A special GTGD is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June with Melton Cubs and Scouts. This is followed by a free sausage sizzle to thank everyone for their efforts. Next GTGD is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June followed by Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Many plants have arrived and are ready to be planted.

Do you want to weed or work in the garden on other days than the GTG days? We have prepared a policy and guidelines for a minimum of two people to work together in the Melton Botanic Garden. Below are the guidelines.

### Working outside of scheduled activities

Members who wish to work at the MBG outside set Grow the Garden or Clean Up Days must observe the following:

1. There must be a minimum of two Members in each work party.
2. Either Allan Benson or Margaret Peters must be contacted the night before to let them know who will be working at MBG, starting time, estimated finishing time, and proposed activity. You can ask Allan or Margaret what needs to be done.
3. You must have a mobile phone with you and have given the phone number to Allan or Margaret. You must also have emergency services contact numbers with you at all times.
4. You must work to FMBG safe working practices.
5. As a means of identification by the public, logo badges must be worn. If you have high visibility clothing, this should also be worn.
6. You must use your own tools and FMBG will not be responsible for any damage to such tools.
7. Allan or Margaret must be advised immediately of any problems arising while you are working at MBG.
8. When you finish you must again contact Allan or Margaret to let them know what work was done and your finishing time for our records.

Contact Numbers:-

Allan – Mobile: 0419 005 895; Phone: 9746 6441

Margaret – Mobile: 0412 097 391; Phone: 5367 3328

Dave – Safety Officer: Mobile: 0417 560 353

## Renew your FMBG Membership

Memberships are due by July 1.

Contact Jill or Margaret to renew.

The Membership/Renewal form is also on the FMBG website.

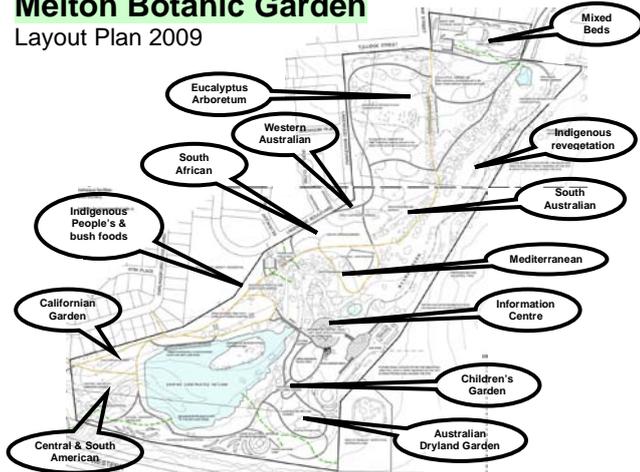
You can also pay by direct bank transfer to FMBG.

**Account Name:** Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc  
**BSB:** 033-121 **Account Number:** 20-8503

*Please ensure that your name appears under the transaction details. In addition, also submit the form or email to [friends@fmbg.org.au](mailto:friends@fmbg.org.au)*

## Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



## Membership

Renewals are due by July 1<sup>st</sup> – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. With more recent memberships **we have reached 148 members for 2009-2010.**

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.

## 2010 Calendar

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker in July is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne. We have also managed to secure **Richard Allen** to speak in October about his new book "Australia's Remarkable Trees".

Please get a copy of the calendar from the website or at meeting

## Facebook Fans

If you use Facebook you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group.

Type Melton Botanic Garden into the Facebook search box and you should be able to find the group.

## 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

### SOV Consulting

Melton VIC 3337

Ph: (03) 9746 7558

Manager: Con Nikakis

Email: nikakisc@gmail.com

### 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](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

### Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: [editor@fmbg.org.au](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

oooOOOooo