



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter March 2010

No.3



Photo John Bentley ©2010

Photo: Eucalyptus Arboretum Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in March

7th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Australia Day at the Melton Botanic Garden

10th Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting
Barb Pye: Eremophilas and other plants that can be propagated for the Botanic Garden

11th Thursday & 28th Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

14th Sunday Field Trip – Time 9am Melton Library Rear Car Park in Smith Street.
Ballarat Botanical Garden & Lambley Nursery

18th Thursday 10am Propagation
Contact Margaret Peters 5367 3328

21st Sunday Houdini Festival Diggers Rest
FMBG Stall

24th – 28th Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show – Royal Exhibition Buildings
FMBG hanging basket on display

26th Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner
Melton Club – Please book with Lynette 9747 9034

What's on in April

8th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

11th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch
Melton Botanic Garden meet at rotundas

14th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting:
Guest Speaker - Alex Smart: Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens & Conference in May at Mildura

***18th Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden**
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden
***Not usual 4th Sunday due to 25th April - Anzac Day**

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, good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

March FMBG Meeting 10th Wednesday 7.30pm

Barb Pye from Suntuff Natives: Eremophilas and other plants that can be propagated for the Botanic Garden – this will also be hands on.

Learn some propagating skills to grow plants for the Melton Botanic Garden.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

Vacant Executive Position

The changes in our amended constitution mean that there is now a vacant ordinary member executive position. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the Executive Committee for a 6 month term.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 30th March at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

We have to plan for plant sales in March and activities throughout the year.

Next Propagation Day is Thursday 18th March at the Peters' place.

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

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.

Botanicgardenville is coming soon to rival Farmville and Fishville etc.

April Meeting Alex Smart



**Association of Friends
of Botanic Gardens
Conference in May at Mildura
Wednesday 14th April 7.30pm
DJ Cunningham Centre
Exford Rd, Melton South
Melways 342 K3**

Information:
Please contact Jill Bentley 97433819

Clean-Up Australia Day – 20 years Sunday 7th March 10am – noon Melton Botanic Garden Meet at Rotundas



We had a good turn out last year. Let's try to make this year even bigger.

This is a good fun event but you can also feel proud about what we achieve together to improve the Melton Botanic Garden and the environment.

Melton Toyota is supporting us this year.

This year celebrates the 20th year of Clean Up Australia Day.

Please bring your own gloves and sturdy footwear (and don't wear your best clothes).

There is also a free BBQ at Hannah Watts for all volunteers immediately following the clean up.



For more information phone:

Janet Dyke: 0408 170 070

or see website: www.cleanup.org.au

FMBG Library

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

Recent purchases: Flora of Melbourne and Weeds of the South-East, Australia's Eremophilas, Seed collection DVD, seed collection and propagation books.

Search for a Patron

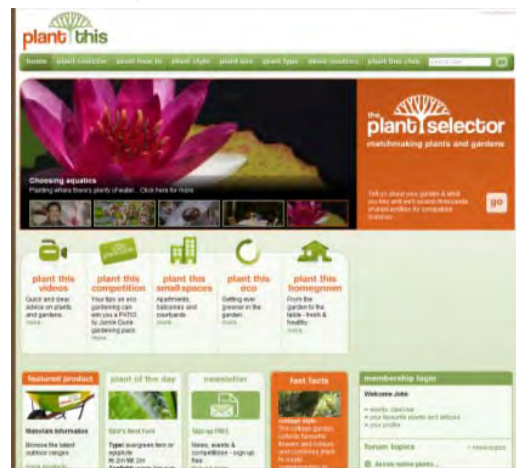
On the Planning Day in January we identified finding a patron for the Melton Botanic Garden as a key activity.

FMBG is calling for suggestions. We have not determined any criteria so keep your mind open and thinking caps on then send us a name(s) together with a reason why they would be suitable.

Suggestions to: friends@fmbg.org.au
or John @ 9743 3819

Website of the month

This month take a look at the "Plant This" website: www.plantthis.com.au



There is useful information for your garden by way of articles and how-to-videos.

On this website using the plant selector you can enter your postcode and other information about where you are planting to get a suggested list of plants. The site can also be used as a plant finder to help locate a plant for that special spot.

Welcome to Waterwatch 2010

Six FMBG members who have been helping with water testing in Ryans Creek attended a Melbourne Water function on Tuesday 23rd February at Tabcorp Park. This was a good networking opportunity.

Congratulations to Friends of Toolern Creek on receiving an award for 5 years of water testing and to MEG and Brookfield Village on their Waterwatch recognition awards.

If you would like to help with water testing please contact Janet Dyke on 9743 2733.

FMBG Logo Launch



We had a good turnout to the logo launch at the Melton Botanic Garden on Wednesday 10th February. Don Nardella the State MP for Melton spoke and helped unveil the logo with Sam Harmer (logo designer) and John Bentley (FMBG President).

The downpour in the afternoon in Bacchus Marsh and some parts of Melton made some people feel we would cancel the launch. We are made of tougher stuff at FMBG than to just to let a little rain and mud put us off. Fortunately the Botanic Garden had only received about 7 mm of rain on the Wednesday afternoon and it stayed fine for our launch. Thirty people attended. Thursday saw more than 35mm of rain pour down in Melton Botanic Garden area.

Thanks to Councillors Sophie Ramsey, Bob Turner and Broden Borg for setting time aside to celebrate the launch.

Allan Benson took some people on a guided tour of the Botanic Garden following the launch.

Field Trip Ballarat Botanic Garden & Lambley Nursery Sunday March 14th

We will leave from the car park next to the Library at 9.00am and expect to arrive at Ballarat Botanic Gardens at 10.00am. Charge is \$10 for people on the bus and \$5 if travelling by car. This includes a charge of \$4 each for group of 10+ or \$5 each for smaller number at Lambley Nursery and a gold coin/person for the Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

We are hoping to have a guide(s) from the Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens to give us an update/tour of the Ballarat Botanic Garden also at Lambley Nursery. This is the last day of the Begonia Festival, you will need to pay extra if you wish to see the Begonias.

We will have a picnic lunch alongside Lake Wendouree opposite the botanic gardens. BYO or join in the shared lunch.

Please contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761 to book a place on the bus and Verna Reed 9743 5272 if you want to be part of the shared lunch.

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

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



Moorabool U3A



Jill Bentley gave a presentation to members of the Moorabool University of the Third Age on Wednesday 24th February. All went well and they are looking at coming to FMBG meetings and also seeing the garden.

Our presentations help get the message of the Melton Botanic Garden to many people. Both the Bulla and the Bacchus Marsh Garden Clubs have approached us for presentations in 2010.

If you would like to help give or assist or support the presentations please contact John or Jill Bentley.

Fungus Found – What is it?

The fungus in the photograph below was found by members on the FMBG February Clean Up Day. Do you know what it is? It is about the size of a fist.



We have had advice from a member that it is most likely some form of a polypore which grows on wood in woodland.

Here is a reply from Bill Leithhead (an expert on fungi) when we sent him some photos of the fungi we have seen at the Melton Botanic in 2009 and 2010:

*Thank you for sending in your images of fungi, and I hope you enjoy finding and photographing them. The Horse Dropping Fungus (or ... Dung ...) growing in the ground is quite common all around the world, and seems to enjoy living in challenging environments such as the edge of roads, gravel, etc. Your images are quite characteristic of it, and it is called *Pisolithus albus*, and my page on it is located here:-*

http://www.elfram.com/fungi/fungpics_p.html#pisalb_a

*It has gone through various processes of being renamed by botanists, and is often shown in books as *Pisolithus albus*, *P. arhizus*, or very commonly *Pisolithus tinctorius*, the second part of the name arising owing to the nature of the yellow-brown dyes available from the fruit bodies. There are several species found across the globe, and they are really only easily distinguished by the microscopic nature of the spores.*

Now, the fungus on the tree is more problematical, and I just don't know its identity. It is certainly a polypore, as suggested, but that is a very broad term. Fungi of that general appearance grow on dead stumps, but some also grow as parasites on living trees, as yours appears to be doing. That leads to heart-rot in the tree and its slow demise. Your fungus seems to have an upper zone of tough, blackish-brown, cracked material underneath which is growing a bulging mass of brownish tissue which has been marked by scratching, possibly by yourself to feel what the texture is like, which is a slightly soft, very fine, tough but velvety feel. That is the surface of fine tube-like pores from which is issuing millions of extremely small brown spores. Species of polypores

like these are identifiable mainly by microscopic examination of the spores, together with the general appearance.

On my web site, slightly similar, but probably not identical examples of polypores like these can be found in my web site as follows:-

Phellinus species:-

http://www.elfram.com/fungi/fungpics_o.html#phellsp_a

Ganoderma australe:-

http://www.elfram.com/fungi/fungpics_h.html#ganaust_a

The latter grows in a variety of variable forms, as seen in the above link, and I'm sure I've seen it growing with a bulging-out fertile surface such as is shown in your photograph, So I'd go for calling it the most likely species. The first two images in the above link shows the upper cracked surface that develops sometimes.

Enjoy your photography, and may you find some more fungi this autumn, the main season.

FMBG Clean Up Day with Waterwatch

Fifteen volunteers turned out for our first 2010 Clean Up Day. There was plenty of rubbish as the last clean up we did was in October 2009. Things are now looking tidier in the Garden thanks to the efforts of these volunteers.



The clean up volunteers



The pile of rubbish including one old bike

Attila Kaptiany's Open Garden April 10-12

1 The Lough Crt, Narre Warren North Me.109:A10

Broadmeadows and District Garden Club

We received an invitation from the Garden Club to give a presentation on the Melton Botanic Garden on Tuesday 9th February. Jill and John Bentley gave the presentation on very hot night (no air conditioning in the hall).

They were a great group of people, as we have found all gardening folk – there were about 40 members attending (they apologised for numbers being a little low as they can regularly have 70 members) – presentation plus questions was around 50 minutes which was a substantial amount of time to promote the Melton Botanic Garden and the work of the Friends.



John presenting to the Broadmeadows and District group

All went well, with good feedback, questions and discussion. They wish us well. Some are planning a visit.

We received a \$30 donation for FMBG.

Grants

Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP)

Our major activity for the V4WP grant over the next two months is for hand weeding by FMBG volunteers and to pay for contractor weeding and spraying.



Information about the grant can be found on the FMBG website.

Friends hand weeded and bagged Umbrella Sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) at the 12th February Grow the Garden Day.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference 2010 May 21st-23rd

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

The conference theme is Secrets of the Mallee.

FMBG are giving a presentation at the conference. A number of FMBG members are attending and have registered.

The program includes short presentations of interesting and innovative developments in various gardens.

Speakers will include Dr Gary Crilley, Senior Lecturer, Division of Business, School of Management, University of SA. Gary is responsible for the research on the benefits for the "over 50's" of volunteering in botanic gardens.

Brief Outline of Program:

Fri.21st May Pre -conference tour in local area (if numbers sufficient)

6.00pm Civic Reception, Alfred Deakin Centre

Sat.22nd May 8.30am Saturday Registration, morning sessions, afternoon discussions and AIB Gardens tours

Sun.23rd May 8.15 Breakfast at AIB Gardens, Early birds walk, sessions, AGM, Optional afternoon river trip

Mon.24th May Post Conference tour to places of environmental interest along the Murray River

Registration forms and details are available on the website.

See: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/events.htm

If you are interested in attending please let us know. Some members have already booked accommodation at various locations in Mildura.

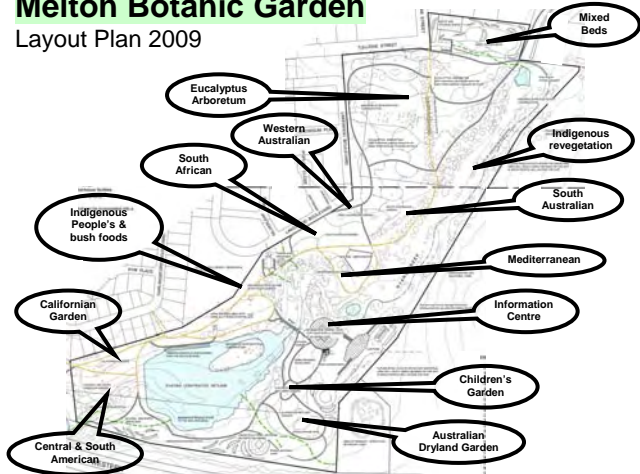
We have printed information and registration forms if anyone would like to consider attending.

Cost per person is \$120 but **only \$90 if paid by 19th March**. Extras per person include conference dinner \$48, breakfast in the gardens \$12, Sunday afternoon river cruise \$25, pre-conference tour \$100 and a post-conference tour \$25.

Alex Smart President of the Association of Friends of Botanic Garden will speak at our April 2010 meeting.

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 currently have over 130 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.

2010 Calendar

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne.

We are planning to have speakers present on some of the planned themed garden beds in the Melton Botanic Garden. **Barb Pye** will give us a glimpse of the arid plants of Australia following their recent trip to South Australia and NT. Barb will also be with us in March on plants we can propagate for the Melton Botanic Garden. Cathy Powers will present on West Australian plants as seen on Cathy's and Ron's trip to Western Australia.

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

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

Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)
Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

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