



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter February 2016

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 39

## February Meeting 6.30pm at MBG

Come and kick off the year with a walk around and a free sausage sizzle at the Melton Botanic Garden. Please let us know if you would like to bring along a salad or dessert to share and also any special dietary requirements (phone Jill 9743 3819).

## NEW FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue Join us at our NEW meeting venue Botanica Springs Community Centre

249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield VIC 3338  
Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

## March Meeting

Our guest speaker is Elizabeth Gilfillan from Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens with a presentation on "*Botanic Gardens and their Relevance in our Community*"



**FMBG Patron**  
**Jane Edmanson OAM**



Category Winner  
Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria  
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013

[sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV)



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

Winner 2012 Powercor Australia Business Excellence Awards

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Monday 7.30pm at the Bentley's house

## Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

- **Gumnuts:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Lakers:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10am-noon
- **Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon
- **Safaris:** Tues & Thurs 9.30am-noon
- **Sandgropers:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** All opening times 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

## Australian Garden Council launched



Gardening in Australia grew new leaves on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Federal Parliament, Canberra with the launch of the first nationally recognised body for gardening - the Australian Garden Council.

The council is designed to reinstate gardening onto the national agenda by incorporating and promoting gardening, gardening tourism and gardening education into one not-for-profit charity.

The Prime Minister was joined by the Federal Minister for Tourism Hon. Richard Colbeck, the Federal Member for Macquarie, Hon. Louise Markus, and their Senior Advisors, alongside a dedicated group of nationally acclaimed gardeners and horticulturists, for the inaugural meeting of the Council.

The council was founded by Graham Ross, Australia's most respected and recognised gardener, and winner of the 2014 AIH Golden Wattle Award. At the launch he detailed how the Australian Garden Council will further domestic gardening, focus on professional horticultural recognition, improve secondary and tertiary gardening educational opportunities and attract inbound tourists through international garden tourism events.

### Silky Blue Grass in the Indigenous Grassland



*Dichanthium sericeum* (Silky Blue Grass) in the Indigenous Grassland. A wonderful summer growing grass with flower heads a bit like caterpillars. The ripe seed heads look like blue flames surrounded by an orange halo when seen against a setting sun!

*Persicaria decipiens* the Slender Knotweed flowering (purple) at the North Pond



### Southern African Garden



Southern African Trial beds are looking good. Trial Bed #1 has the best growth with only a 10% compost mix. The 50% compost bed is struggling due it being highly alkaline (pH is over 8).

You can see the changes in plant growth from beds #1 to #5 if you go to garden and have a look.



### Restoration of the lake edge

Restoration of the lake edge has been undertaken where the bank has eroded over the years. Large flat rocks from Colac were placed to form the edge with small rocks to infill behind.

There is now a nice edge to stand on. Our thanks to Greenworks and Melbourne Water for undertaking the repair.



### Restoration of the lake edge



## Federal Member BBQ at the MBG

The Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP for Gorton was at the garden on 27<sup>th</sup> January for an evening BBQ with his supporters and office staff.



## FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays, Thursdays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10am - 1pm  
or other times by appointment

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery  
21 Williams Street, Melton

Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens  
Native plants grown in the Melton Botanic Garden  
A good range of Eremophila and Eucalyptus varieties  
Some decorative succulents and Southern African plants

### Prices

Forestry tubes \$3, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

## Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Guided Walking Tour (2) February 2016



During the Sustainable Living Festival take a guided tour through the ever developing Melton Botanic Garden to see plants that tolerate a dry climate and low water conditions. The walk is about 90 minutes followed by morning tea. Highlights are the natural features, the dryland eucalyptus arboretum, WA garden beds, Sensory Garden, Southern African Trial Beds (use of Green Bin compost), and the indigenous plantings in the Indigenous Peoples Gardens, along Ryans Creek and beside the lake.

**WHEN:** Sunday 21 February 2016  
**TIME:** 10.00am - noon  
**WHERE:** Meet at Depot near corner of Tullidge and Williams St, Melton  
**RSVP:** John Bentley  
**Phone:** 9743 3819 (please leave message if unattended)  
**Email:** friends@fmbg.org.au  
**Website:** www.fmbg.org.au and also Facebook



Category: Other  
New Zealand Beautiful National  
Sustainable City Awards 2015

sustainablelivingfestival



Friends of the  
Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

Inc No: A00450772

www.fmbg.org.au

ABN: 50 713 471 671

## Sponsors

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

- Melton Home Timber & Hardware
- Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi
- Platinum Accounting and Taxation
- Melton Produce
- Tabcorp Park Melton
- Woodlea Leakes Road Rockbank
- Westwaters Hotel Caroline Springs
- Avis Rentals Melton
- Sign Perfection Melton
- Don Nardella MLA Melton

Proudly supported by the City of Melton

**Sponsors of FMBG at the October 2015 Horticultural & Gardening Festival**

## Your Executive Committee

President:	John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Treasurer:	Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary:	Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members:	Jill Bentley (9743 3819)
	Dave Peters
	Steve Parker
	Jen Eldridge
Safety Officer:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

We have stock of a great book for those interested in native plants. On sale at the FMBG Nursery at \$15 for FMBG members and \$20 for non-members



## Membership

### Membership fees are due by 30 June each year

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

We welcome all our new members and your membership helps support the development of the botanic garden and we hope you can participate in our activities.

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and now Denmark. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We had 206 members in 2011-2012 and 218 members in 2013/14. **In 2014/15 we have achieved our greatest total of financial memberships ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. Well done everyone.**

Please help to sign up a new member to keep up a strong membership base.

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

The Membership/Renewal form is available 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)**

New memberships are approved each month at the Executive meeting.

*For membership information please contact Jill Bentley on 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form*

*FMBG can give presentations to groups and host guided tours of the garden*



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

## Facebook and Twitter Fans

If you use Facebook and/or Twitter you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type "Melton Botanic Garden" into the search box and you should be able to find us

## FMBG Corporate Members 2015/16

### Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

2 Holland Drive, Melton, VIC 3337  
Phone: (03) 9971 4444  
[www.alanmancenissan.com.au](http://www.alanmancenissan.com.au)

### Aquarium Leasing Specialists

Manager: John Candy  
Phone: 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005  
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338  
[aquarium@westnet.com.au](mailto:aquarium@westnet.com.au)

### Callea Pearce Lawyers

**MELTON:** 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333  
**BACCHUS MARSH:** 127 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh. 5367 2283  
**WERRIBEE:** Ballan House, 1 Duncans Road, Werribee. 8742 6162  
Web: [www.calleapearce.com.au](http://www.calleapearce.com.au)

### Everite Garden Supplies

19 Melton Valley Drive  
Melton Victoria  
Phone: 9743 6021  
[office@everitegs.com.au](mailto:office@everitegs.com.au)

### Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, Vic. 3337  
Phone: (03) 9743 5033  
Manager: Ken Morton

### Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338  
Phone: (03) 9743 5201  
Manager: Peter Earl

### Melton Toyota

143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337  
Phone: (03) 8746 0300

### Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337  
Phone: (03) 9746 6479  
Manager: Corinne Cole  
Email: [info@platinumaccounting.com.au](mailto:info@platinumaccounting.com.au)

### Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337  
Phone: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

### Western Land Services

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