

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

May 2008 News

1) Reminder about Wednesday's May meeting (An important meeting!)

Wednesday May 14th 7.30pm - Community Room Woodgrove.

If there is one meeting you don't want to miss it's this one!

Find out what is happening and affirm the Botanic Garden Vision.

Rodney Thomas from the Shire of Melton is presenting an "Update on Landscape Design" and Jill Bentley will present the "Concept Design Plan" on which the landscape design brief is based. Copies of the Concept Plan and Landscape Design Brief will be available. The call for expressions of interest for the landscape design was advertised in 'The Age' on Saturday 10th May.

Come along and ask questions about your botanic garden.

2) FMBG weatherproof banner

We will also show off our new weatherproof banner (2m x 1m) at the May meeting. The banner was kindly created and donated by David at Grafx'n'signs <http://www.gns.net.au/>

3) Stained Glass Ornament

We also have a Fuchsia Gum stained glass hanging widow ornament to show you at the May meeting. This was created and donated to us by David Shrubshall - We will use this for the Djerriwarrh Festival Raffle (value \$45) - If you purchase stained glass or other suncatcher products from David and mention FMBG there will be a donation made to the Friends. See - Shrubcat Leadlighting www.myspace.com/shrubcatleadlighting



Fuchsia Gum Melton Botanic Garden

The Fuchsia Gum was chosen as the design because there are some growing at the botanic garden site. Sadly one was blown over in the recent strong winds, so we will need to plant another one in the Eucalyptus Arboretum.

4) Propagation and Re-potting

Thursday 22nd May 10am - Margaret Peters Place, Hopeton Park.

We need to re-pot a whole lot of plants to the next size pots for re-sale. We have indigenous grassland plants that are desperate for a re-pot so please come and help and have a chat with other Friends. This will be an on going activity on the 4th Thursday of each month. Propagating and selling plants is a great fun and fundraising activity that many Friends groups undertake. A great way to catch up and learn about plants.

Contact Margaret: 5367 3328

5) Restoration of Ryans Creek

We are going to start planting along Ryans Creek this year. A walk over the area in the botanic garden was conducted by Rod Thomas, Tony Herwerth and 5 Friends on Friday 2nd May. The Melton Environment Group (MEG) is going to join us in this exciting project. If you want to be on the group that plans the area and determines the plants etc please let me know. Daryl Akers (FMBG and MEG) has kindly offered his expertise in this project.

Initially FMBG said we would purchase \$1,000 of plants and the Shire of Melton then volunteered to give us a matching amount for purchase of indigenous plants. We also need to apply for an Adopt-a-Park Grants to help us with the development of this showcase section of indigenous vegetation in the botanic garden.

John Bentley
President, Friends of the Melton Botanic
Garden