

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

November 2008

What's On?

12th November Wednesday 7.30pm

Monthly Meeting - Show & Tell Night

"Botanic Gardens that have impressed you"

Bring along photos, information and mementos of Botanic Gardens you have visited. Computer and projector will be available to show any photos brought on a memory stick or CD.

Tell us or just show us your great experiences.

8th November Saturday Djerriwarrh Festival

Parade and stall.

Latest plans of the Melton Botanic Garden will be on Display.

Free bus tours of the garden from 1-4pm.

**8th November Saturday
Djerriwarrh Festival
Join the Parade**

**Dress up in old gardening clothes
- theme is through the ages**

The parade should be fun

Meet at site 31 on High Street just near Godfreys
and Bursons between 10.00 and 10.30am

Contact Jill 0412 673 452

Here is another chance to help promote the
Melton Botanic Garden



Djerriwarrh marchers 2007
Let's make 2008 even bigger!

**10th December Wednesday 6.30pm: End of
Year BBQ** at Verna Reed's Place. We have lots
of raffle prizes and we will have great fun! Call Jill
9743 3819 for details and what to bring along.

**13th February Sunday 10am - noon Clean up
day and water quality testing**

Meet at rotunda in Botanic Garden.

Near Darlingsford pedestrian entry to the lake.

October Meeting – Grevilleas

A stunning PowerPoint presentation and talk by Graeme Woods showed us the A-Z of grevilleas – we had a least one grevillea photo for every letter of the alphabet. Good laughs as we were also entertained by Graeme's play on words with the grevillea names.



Graeme showing a grevillea batrachioides

Photo: John Bentley

Field Trip - Ballarat and Buninyong Botanic Gardens Sunday 26th October

We arrived in Ballarat on what started as a cool
and very windy day. The wind never let up but
the temperature got to 30 degrees.

We were welcomed by the Friends of Ballarat
Botanic Gardens who provided a morning where
we talked about each group's activities. The
morning tea was held in their recently opened
Friends Centre called the George Longley
Building which is named after the gardens first
curator.



(Morning tea with Friends)

We covered kilometres trekking around the
gardens with the guides from Ballarat Friends.
We decided they are a very fit group!



(George Longley Building and Friends Plant Sales area)



(Friends at Buninyong Botanic Garden)



(Inside Ballarat Friends propagating glass house)

A big thankyou to Don Nardella for driving the bus and Alan Partridge for organising the trip.

October Clean-up Day

A great turn out with about 20 volunteers coming to help. Mikala Peters conducted invertebrate water quality monitoring (water bug testing). Some had fun scooping up things out of the water then checking and counting what was alive to assess the quality of the water – it's not bad.



(Bug catching)



(Bug inspecting and counting)

Great fun - some of us even cleaned up focussing on Ryans Creek and the north side of the lake. As usual we had a bite to eat and something to drink afterwards. Come along and join in next time for some fellowship and fun.



(Dave and Alan cleaning up)

Membership

Take the opportunity to renew or join at the FMBG Djerriwarrh Stall in the shire car park on 8th November 9am – 4pm.

Single - \$10

Single concession or student -\$5

Household/Concession - \$20/\$10

Corporate - \$50

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.

Grants Update

We are proposing a water harvesting project from the Melton Industrial Estate to provide water to grow the Melton Botanic Garden. This project will involve the installation of large water tanks to capture rainwater from industrial rooftops to be put forward as a funding proposal to the Vision for Werribee Plains grants program. FMBG will be submitting a grant proposal for this project in February 2009.

Rodney Thomas, Environmental Services Coordinator, Melton Shire Council has discussed with FMBG Executive about an MSC grant application for the Vision for the Werribee Plains to install solar cells on Council owned land. This would involve the installation of a limited number of photovoltaic cells, probably arranged in a grid. It would provide the total electrical power to approximately 150 homes.

The amount of land required in the Botanic Garden area is approximately 1.2 hectares, which includes screening and shading buffers.

It is felt that incorporating solar cells at the Melton Botanic Gardens might have significant benefits.

This project would provide a major point of difference with other Botanic Gardens and a massive enhancement of the sustainability features of site.

It could be advertised as a significant attraction within the Gardens and potentially draw in visitors that otherwise would not visit.

The cells would power all infrastructure such as lighting, pumps and visitor centre. They could also be incorporated as part of shade structures (this occurs overseas).

The cells would take up about 4% of the total site area (the total area of the site is approximately 30 hectares).

The Executive agreed that this project aligns with aims of the Melton Botanic Garden and should be supported.

Platypus Festival October 11

This event was organised by Friends of Toolern Creek. FMBG set up an information stall and we also sold plants. A warm, sunny and windy day. Good atmosphere and opportunity to meet other environmental groups and visitors.



(Opening the Festival – with welcome to country)



(FMBG Stall)



(Andrew from FOTC and the platypus he sculpted)



(FMBG Stall)

Growing the Garden Days

“Growing the Garden Days” are held on the 2nd Thursday and also 4th Sunday of each month. This allows those who are free weekdays to attend and also provide a weekend activity. We need to focus on watering and weeding in November.

Where is the Botanic Garden?

The new fold-up Melton map in the Information Centre shows Town Centre Park plus in brackets “Proposed Melton Botanic Garden”. Someone said the latest Melways (337 C10) or UBD also includes “Proposed Botanic Garden” but I’ve yet to confirm this – can you?

Water Testing Training

Sunday November 23, 2008 - 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Melbourne Water Discovery Centre, Western Treatment Plant, Werribee

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Waterwatch is a river health education and monitoring program aiming to increase community understanding and ownership of local rivers, creeks and wetlands. Waterwatch Training is provided free of charge and is designed for Waterwatch monitors, teachers and members of the public. No previous experience is necessary.

Topics covered include:

- Physical and Chemical Water Quality Testing
- Equipment Use and Maintenance
- Macroinvertebrate (waterbug) Monitoring
- Developing a Strategic Monitoring Plan
- OH&S

Please RSVP by Wednesday 19 November to:
Emma Taunt, Waterwatch Coordinator
9218 5604 / 0408 188 948
emma.taunt@melbournewater.com.au

Djerriwarrh Festival Raffle Prize



Main raffle prize for Djerriwarrh Festival
Fuchsia Gum stained glass hanging
Donated by David Shrubshall

To purchase stained glass products contact David at Shrubcat Leadlighting 0403 360 677, mention FMBG to receive a discount or a donation to FMBG. See: www.myspace.com/shrubcatleadlighting

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

The 2009 FMBG calendar is finalised – version one is on the website and will also be emailed to you. You can also pick up a copy at the FMBG stall at the Djerriwarrh Festival.

Business Cards and Promotion

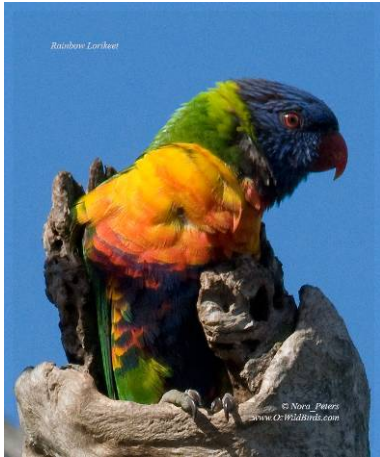
We have some business cards for handing out at promotional events.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Monday 1st
December 7.30pm

Birds at Melton Botanic Garden

Nora Peters took a short stroll along the waters edge at the Botanic Garden looking for the Reed Warblers and came across this Rainbow Lorikeet in a small hollow of the dead tree.



Further along Ryans Creek she found a Willie Wagtail having a go at the Raven on the ground and it then continued its onslaught up into the trees!



Louise Robinson also got her camera out recently and snapped a few shots at the Botanic Garden



(Black Duck – Louise Robinson)

The lagoon is a great place to capture some bird life and also relax.



(Lagoon – Louise Robinson)

Make sure you get out with your camera for some inspiring shots of the Melton Botanic Garden



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