

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

June 2009



Photo: Eucalyptus Arboretum area looking south - Melton Botanic Garden site

What's On in June

10th June Wednesday 7:30pm Public Forum at the DJ Cunningham Centre

– Guest Speaker: Attila Kapitany

We are encouraging members to bring along a friend or two to this great night.

11th Thursday & 28th Sunday June 10am-noon Grow the Garden – We will be planting

Meet at Ryans Creek near Tullidge Street - Botanic Garden site

14th June Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch

Meet at Rotundas Botanic Garden Site near lake.

26th June Friday 6.45pm FMBG Social Dinner – Melton Club

Info or to book please call Lynette Rehling 9747 9034

30th June Tuesday 7.30pm Executive Meeting

Bentley's place 9743 3819

Dates for July:

8th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting: Guest Speaker – Debbie Reynolds from Iramoo- Indigenous Grasslands

9th Thurs & 26th Sunday. 10-noon Grow the Garden – Ryans Creek - Botanic Garden site

19th Sunday 9:30 am Field Trip Point Cook Coastal Park and Newport Lakes – *Travel by private car.*

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are held at the DJ Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South (Melways 342 K3) on the second Wednesday night of each month.

There is parking, easy access, good space, kitchen and toilets.

FMBG Events Calendar 2009

The 2009 FMBG calendar is on the website. You can also pick up a copy at our meetings.



Unusual West Australian Plants



Attila Kapitany

at the June FMBG Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 10th June 7.30pm
DJ Cunningham Centre

Attila is an acknowledged expert on succulents. Plants both in habitat as well as being used in gardens will be looked at and discussed. Attila has many spectacular photographs in his presentation.

- Attila is the author of eight books specialising in succulent plants.
- 'Australian Succulent Plants' by Attila Kapitany.
- He is President of the Cactus And Succulent Society of Australia
- Attila has travelled to the deserts and remote environs of the U.S.A, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile to research a wide range of plants.
- He has extensive experience with rare and unusual plants which include bromeliads, succulents, orchids, carnivorous plants and cacti for over 30 years.
- Attila has experience in a wide range of successful cultivation techniques.
- He is an accomplished botanical photographer and co-author of the acclaimed book 'Copiapoa in their Environment', and author of many published horticultural articles.

Attila will have his books and plants for sale

More information:

Please contact John or Jill Bentley 97433819

Growing the Garden Days

We started planting for 2009 at the May Growing the Garden Days. Thanks to Allan and Margaret for picking up the plants from Western Plains Nursery.

We had our new trailer and water tank so we were able to water plants from our tank this time.

Thanks to Janet for bringing along and looking after the trailer plus preparing the morning tea. Thanks to Aaron for bringing the water tank and to Allan for watering the plants. Lastly, a big thankyou to everyone who planted the plants.



Ted with his Cornish Miner's Pick



Ted at work making planting holes with his pick

During our planting it was pleasing to see how well some of last years plants are doing. We also found dianellas that were still alive but have not grown at all from last year. Let's hope for rain and Allan's mission to keep the water up to them if it fails to rain.

We are investigating the purpose of a petrol driven auger to make holes for planting as the Hamilton are fine in damp ground but useless in hard ground. The other option is to use manual labour with a pick. It can be done as Ted demonstrated to us using his Cornish Miner's Pick but it is a fair bit of effort when you have a few thousand holes to dig.



Margaret, Aaron, Dave, Bev and Allan



Ted, Verna and Jill

We will be planting at the June Growing the Garden Days and hopefully through to September so why not join in next time to help grow the garden and have fun doing it.

Rubbish Removal

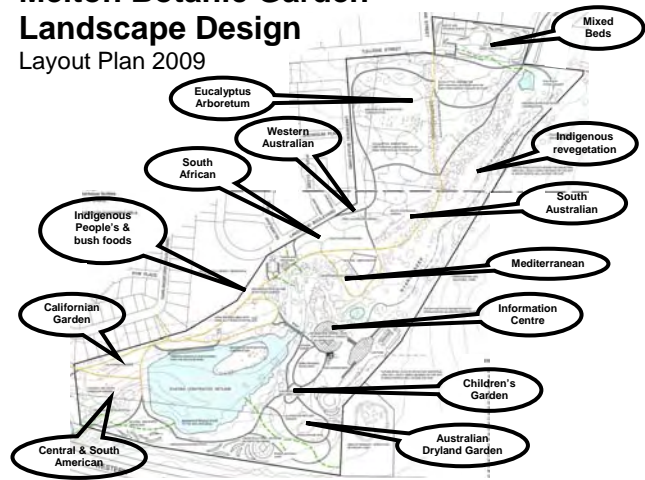
MSC are removing some dumped building rubbish that has been left near Lakeside Boulevard. Melbourne Water has removed the couch and other rubbish in the River Red Gum lagoon. Thanks to both groups.

Landscape Design Plans

FMBG have received three copies of the landscape design report and one printed set of the layout and planting plans. We have also been given a CD containing the report and the layout and planting plans. The plans are in both Adobe Acrobat and AutoCAD formats.

Melton Botanic Garden Landscape Design

Layout Plan 2009



Grants

On 19th May FMBG were presented with a cheque for the MSC strengthening grant at a function held at the Melton Shire Hall. We will purchase two marquees for our work in promoting the Melton Botanic Garden. We would like to thank MSC for making these competitive grants available. We will now have an even stronger presence at all those events where we promote FMBG and the Melton Botanic Garden.

Members of FMBG have been invited to attend a Vision for Werribee Plains gathering where the Minister for Environment & Climate Change will announce the recipients of Round 1 and 2 grants for the Vision for Werribee Plains project - at the Werribee Open Range Zoo on June 5 at 9.00 a.m.

If you have major industry contacts or know of sources of major funding to develop beds in the botanic garden please tell us. The cost to develop the whole garden and infrastructure on current estimates will be about \$7m.

Getting the message out there

A number of FMBG members were at Woodgrove shopping Centre on Thursday 28th May promoting the Melton Botanic Garden. We gave out information, had plenty of enquiries, got some new members and membership renewals.

Well done everyone who helped.

Open Day - September

We are planning an open day on Saturday 5th September at the Botanic Garden in September with a free BBQ and tours of the garden.

Presentation to Melton Shire Council

Representatives of FMBG have been given a timeslot on Monday 6th July. This is the earliest date we could get to give a brief presentation on the Melton Botanic Garden. We will also discuss where to from here now that the landscape design has been completed.

This is an excellent opportunity to formally meet the new Council as we work together to attain the goal of developing a botanic garden in Melton.

FMBG on Melton Radio

Jill Bentley represented FMBG on Carolyn MacGavin's "At Noon" Melton Radio show for a Desert Island Discs segment. Jill over the period of an hour answered many questions about the Melton Botanic and presented 5 songs. Well done Jill you were a great ambassador for FMBG.

We will have more opportunities to promote the Melton Botanic Garden on radio. We need some people to volunteer to liaise with or to go on Melton Radio – any takers? Please contact John on 9743 3819.

Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

Plants that is! We need you get out and make new plants for FMBG to sell. Starting in spring we will have many events until the end of the year where we will be selling plants.

We also need to re-pot many plants to the next size pots for re-sale. Please look out for our propagation days. This activity is usually once a month on a Thursday. Propagating and selling plants is great fun and a fundraising activity that many Friends groups undertake. It is also a great way to catch up and learn about plants.

If you need pots or have any for us to recycle or to enquire about the propagation days please contact Margaret on 5367 3328.

RHSV Horticultural Disaster Relief Fund

FMBG have donated \$50 towards the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria's Horticultural Disaster Relief Fund. It contributes towards horticultural purposes for community works.

Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st.

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We currently have 115 members and 3 corporate members.

Single - \$10

Single concession or student - \$5

Household/Concession - \$20/\$10

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.

Logo Design

We are working on designing a logo based on a Fuchsia Gum. Here is another sketch by Janet Dyke. Please let us know what you think.



Melton and Wyndham Landcare and Friends Forum – April 28th

Some photos from the forum



Book Review; Sustainable Gardens

by Alex Smart President of Werribee River Association - 26/05/2009



Thoroughly researched and written in plain language by Rob Cross and Roger Spencer, both plant scientists at the National Herbarium of Victoria: Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, this marvellous book in its third edition details what we can do to make public

and private gardens sustainable into the long term future.

It recognises that we have to cope with drought, a diminishing and increasingly costly water supply, and provides comprehensive details on that subject right down to the size of tank required for different domestic applications. But it is about much more than water.

Challenging chapters cover Energy and Emissions, Food and Biodiversity and Ecology before launching into Design of Low Impact Gardens.

The chapter on food will, to some extent, change what I eat. Yet the authors never preach; rather they lay out interesting facts and options for consideration by the reader. They emphasise the benefits of harvesting food from a home garden compared with buying product shipped over great distances or processed by manufacturers. They reinforce the benefit of a veggie patch or some fruit trees at your home.

Do you have a 'Green Bin' to remove your garden waste? The authors introduce the concept of 'Green Wealth' pointing out that there is an alternative to dumping valuable by-products from any garden. Compost and mulch are demonstrably 'Green Wealth'. Another point was the fact that we buy manufactured fertilisers while we flush potentially useful urine down the toilet.

Each chapter has an 'Info Box' with succinct facts on the subject in that chapter. Some of these are intriguing. How about 'a 60W light bulb left on for 24 hours would use an amount of energy equal to that required to raise a 1 tonne weight 530m'? That is more than half a kilometre. Wow! Could that be true? An engineer friend ran the calculations and verified the claim. Another point is that an efficient solar hot water service (in Melbourne) would provide hot water for 40 weeks each year without supplementary heating. What do these points have to do with gardening?

In the last chapter Sustainable gardens, landscapes and lives the authors show that our gardens are integrated with our lives. To quote from chapter 1 "Sustainable gardening can be defined very simply as: gardening to maximise environmental benefit and human well-being".

Numerous charts, graphs and tables are provided. Regrettably some have been reduced so far that a magnifying glass was needed; but that is a minor criticism.

This book will have an impact on any gardeners concerned about our precious planet. As well it should be in schools and every municipal library. Will you ask your librarian to stock a copy?

Sustainable Gardens is published by CSIRO Publishing. RRP \$39.95, only in paperback, 352 pages, 240 x 190 mm, ISBN: 9780643094222.

One copy is available in each of the Melton and Caroline Springs Libraries (Call#: 630 CRO).

For more information on the book and to order from CISRO visit:

www.publish.csiro.au/nid/20/pid/5956.htm

Other Upcoming Events

160th Celebration Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV)

FMBG is an affiliate group of RHSV.

The President and Committee have invited all Affiliated Groups and Members to Celebrate 160th birthday.

The celebrations are on Saturday, June 20th, 2009 at 1.30pm at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley.

Help RHSV celebrate our 160 years young. . .

There is a varied program including:

- Awards for the recent Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Hanging Basket Competition
- A rummage through the history of the RHSV
- A keynote presentation by RHSV Patron Jane Edmanson
- A great afternoon tea with cake and candles

It has taken 160 years to get here so let's enjoy it.

RSVP: 5th June 2009

To the Hon Sec RHSV

133 Underbank Boulevard BACCHUS MARSH
3340

Ph/Fax 03 53676363

E-Mail secretary@rhsv.org.au

MSC community events conference

Signup for free community events conference

Residents, organisations and groups involved in planning and developing community events in the Shire of Melton are invited to attend Melton Shire Council's free Community Events Conference next month.

The conference will be held on Saturday 20 June 2009 at Melton Community Hall, 232 High Street, between 10am and 4.30pm.

Melton Shire Council Mayor, Cr Renata Cugliari, said the conference would offer groups and individuals the chance to gain valuable information that will assist in the development of successful community events.

"The conference will provide groups and individuals with information on Council's processes for health and safety, food management, ideas for sourcing funding, successful event marketing, creative design concepts and a community event case study. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask a specialist panel questions regarding your community events," Cr Cugliari said.

"This free conference will prove invaluable to anyone in our Shire who is involved in planning and running community events," the Mayor said.

Places are limited and registration is essential.

Registrations for the free 2009 Community Events Conference closes Monday 8 June 2009 at 5pm.

For further information, and to register, contact Melton Shire Council's Tourism and Events unit on 9747 7200.

Melton Shire Council media enquiries: Daniel Anderson – Communications Officer on (03) 9747 7205.

Melton Environment Group

Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday 17th June

Don Nardella's Office 7.30pm

Executive Committee

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



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