



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter July 2010

No.7



(c) 2010 John Bentley

Photo: Ryans Creek Melton Botanic Garden

## What's on in July

**8<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 10-noon Grow the Garden**

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

**14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm Monthly Meeting**

Guest Speaker: John Arnott - Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne – Botanic Gardens and their role in plant conservation

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden & BBQ**

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden  
with Conservation Volunteers Australia

## What's on in August

**5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Woodgrove Promotion for John Patrick**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch**

Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

**11<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm Annual General Meeting**

with photo competition – being your best photos  
See page

**12<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 10-noon Grow the Garden**

Ryans 'Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden & BBQ**

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden  
with Conservation Volunteers Australia

## 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, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

## FMBG logo badges

Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public etc – we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery

## FMBG Monthly Meeting

**14th July Wednesday 7.30pm**



**Speaker: John Arnott**

Manager of Horticulture  
Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

## Regional Botanic Gardens and Plant Conservation

**Protecting threatened species**

**This is a great talk with many good photos**

DJ Cunningham Centre, Exford Rd, Melton South,  
Melways 342 K3

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

## AGM and FMBG Executive Positions

The AGM is on the 11th August. We need an Executive Committee of eight. Please start to consider yourself or anyone you know who should be nominated for an executive position. The AGM is only one month away – so put your thinking and motivation caps on.

Welcome to Peter Sell who accepted an invitation to fill the vacant position on the Executive Committee.

## Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday  
27<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

## Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

We have plant sales throughout the year.

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

## Eucalyptus Arboretum Working Party

The funding sub-group met on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Mr Max Coster Project Manager for Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) was in attendance. Max reported that following our Expression of Interest submission we should look to submit a formal application of the order of \$150,000 for funding towards the Eucalyptus Arboretum. We now need to be in discussion with groups to find matching contributions totalling at least \$150,000. If you know anyone who is willing to contribute please let David Pye or John Bentley know. The project requires site preparation through activities like marking out, ripping, building pathways plus getting associated materials and equipment.

We have to grow or source around 800 Eucalypts but also there are 20,000 understorey shrubs, grasses and ground covers such as Eremophilas, Acacias, Grevillias, etc. to procure. A Melton Bacchus Marsh Australian Plants Society member has very generously offered to pay for the Eucalypt seeds. If you think you can propagate plants please contact Barb Pye.

## Eucalyptus Arboretum Contacts

Project Manager: David Pye (5428 9369)  
dabpye@gmail.com  
Working Party Chair: John Bentley (9743 3819)  
president@fmbg.org.au  
Plants: Barb Pye (5428 9369)  
dabpye@gmail.com  
Site Preparation: David Pye (5428 9369)  
dabpye@gmail.com  
John Bentley (9743 3819)  
president@fmbg.org.au  
Funding: John Bentley (9743 3819)  
president@fmbg.org.au

## Website of the Month - AIBG



It might be a bit wetter and colder, however, now is time to be thinking about how you will prepare for the summer and the drier climate. Melbourne Water's Water-wise gardens page might have just the answers for you. Check out some the ideas and see what other gardens including the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne have done.  
<http://conservewater.melbournewater.com.au>

## Richgro donation of products



Vin and Ryan from Richgro spoke at the June meeting. They offered many tips for your garden and the attendees certainly asked lots of questions.

Subsequently Richgro have donated some slightly damaged products:

- 100% Organic gardenia fertiliser 5kg - 10 Bags
- Organic based Palm and Fern fertiliser 4kg – 1 bags
- Organic based native fertiliser 4kg - 8 bags
- Dolomite lime 5kg – 7 bags
- Ezi-wet soil wetter 10kg – 1 bag
- Rose & Citrus Planting mix 30 Litre – 3 bags

We will be able to use these initially in our plant propagation, the botanic garden and as monthly raffle prizes. Thanks to Richgro for the donation and to Tony Dyke for collecting the products.



Everyone at the meeting received a bottle of Beat-a-Weed from Richgro. Hope you tried it.

Richgro products can be purchased from our corporate member Melton Home Timber and Hardware.



Vin explaining some of the finer points of Richgro and it's products



## 30th Birthday and Open Day Melton 979fm Community Radio

FMBG members have been invited to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Open Day for Melton Community Radio on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm. A BBQ lunch is provided.

In the afternoon will be the opening of the Roy Gabb Memorial Garden which FMBG members Allan Benson, Jill Bentley and Alan Partridge designed. 979fm members and friends have done a great job on building the garden from the plans.



*The first working bee to build the Roy Gabb memorial Garden*

## Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainability Awards

As you may have read in the newspapers the Shire of Melton won the 2010 Sustainable Cities award for Victoria.

Winners were announced at a ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Congratulations to Daryl Akers who was presented with the prestigious Dame Phyllis Frost award for his work with a number of local environment groups. Daryl is an FMBG member however this just one amongst many of his affiliations with Melton Environmental groups.

The Shire of Melton now progresses to the national titles in Canberra.

Award night photos are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/keepaustraliabeautifulvictoria/sets>



*Old River Red Gum MBG (Photo courtesy Andy Wong ©2010)*

## The MBG Patron Search



Who would you choose as a patron for the Melton Botanic Garden or FMBG?

We still want suggestions for a patron. They are coming in slowly. So have a think and send in your pick.

We have not determined any criteria so keep your mind open put your thinking cap on then send us a name(s) together with a reason why they would be suitable.

Suggestions to: [friends@fmbg.org.au](mailto:friends@fmbg.org.au)  
or John @ 9743 3819



## Flowering this month at the MBG

There are a number of eucalypts flowering at the moment. Here is an iron bark. Why not take a stroll in the botanic and find the gums out in flower.



*Andy and Dory*

## Hong Kong FMBG Members Visit MBG

Yes we have international members. Andy Wong and Dory Chan are from Hong Kong. They recently visited Melbourne and were keen to see the Melton Botanic Garden on their way to Sovereign Hill. They got the opportunity to plant and have a sausage at Bunnings. Andy and Dory took the opportunity to also renew their membership. Pity it was such a cold day, much different to Hong Kong.



*Dory and John – River Red Gums at Lagoon MBG*

(Photos courtesy Andy Wang ©2010)

Cubs and Scouts Planting

**It's Time to take or find some photos for the FMBG Photo Competition**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm we have the Annual General Meeting but more exciting still is the FMBG photo competition. This is an opportunity for members to display some of their best and favourite photos about plants and gardens.

Categories include: Wildlife and plants, botanic garden scenes, flowers, close-up of plants, people and botanic gardens, objects and plants and a general section for anything else.



Fuschia Gum (*E. forrestiana*) Melton Botanic Garden

Bring your photos on the night for display. Rule is you must have taken the photo yourself. The more the merrier for a Champagne celebration.

Get excited by visiting the International Garden Photographer of the Year Competition and see what is possible.

Great shots and ideas at: [www.igpoty.com](http://www.igpoty.com)

**Vision for Werribee Plains Grant Completion**

We are very close to completion of the V4WP 2009 Grant. The \$19,000 grant has allowed us to assist in the rehabilitation of Ryans Creek. Thanks to Allan and Margaret for all the legwork in the grant. If you have been part of a Grow the Garden Day in the last year some of the plants you planted and the site preparation would have been funded by the grant. MSC have contributed work in planting, weeding and site preparation as part of their contribution in helping match the grant requirements. The final invoice and payment has been received for the grant. We are in the process of finishing our payments to suppliers and final reporting.



**Grow the Garden Days 10am-noon**

We held a special GTGD on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June with Melton Cubs and Scouts. This was followed by a free sausage sizzle to thank everyone for their efforts.

At the Grow the Garden Day on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June some members started at 9am as we had Conservation Volunteers Australia join us. It was a great planting day!! We had to ask David Peters to fetch 300 more plants. In total 1,753 tubes were planted. Special thanks to Margaret, Allan and Janet who were key players in organising everything to make this a successful day. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped.



Here is a list of what was planted:

Species	Common Name	Source	Planted
<i>Amphibromus neesii</i>	Swamp Wallaby Grass	Plumpton	100
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>	Common Wallaby Grass		200
<i>Calotis scapigera</i>	Tufted Burr Daisy	Derrimut North	100
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Common Billy Button		50
<i>Dianella admixta</i>	Flax Lily	Sunshine Tip	100
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Pale Flax Lily	Griegs Rd	100
<i>Isolepis nodosa (Ficinia)</i>	Knobby club-rush	MPC	400
<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i>	Tree Violet		50
<i>Lobelia pratiodes</i>	Poison Lobelia	Broadmeadows	100
<i>Mentha diemenica</i>	Slender Mint	Taylor's Ck	100
<i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i>	Tangled Lignum		50
<i>Pycnosorus chrysanthes</i>	Golden Billy Buttons	Sunshine Tip	100
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	Drumsticks	Altona	100
<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>	Australian Buttercup		103
<i>Veronica gracilis</i>	Slender Speedwell	Sunshine	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,753</b>

Margaret Peters has more details on all these plants if anyone would like them.



Conservation Volunteers Australia Planting

## 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](http://www.envirogroup.com.au/sustainablesuburbs)

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



**John Patrick is coming  
Ten best gardens of the world  
Only 80 places!**

Members free, non-members \$5  
You must book your seat with Alan Partridge  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**

## Working outside of scheduled activities

Members who wish to work at the MBG outside set Grow the Garden or Clean Up Days must observe the following:

1. There must be a minimum of two Members in each work party.
2. Either Allan Benson or Margaret Peters must be contacted the night before to let them know who will be working at MBG, starting time, estimated finishing time, and proposed activity. You can ask Allan or Margaret what needs to be done.
3. You must have a mobile phone with you and have given the phone number to Allan or Margaret. You must also have emergency services contact numbers with you at all times.
4. You must work to FMBG safe working practices.
5. As a means of identification by the public, logo badges must be worn. If you have high visibility clothing, this should also be worn.
6. You must use your own tools and FMBG will not be responsible for any damage to such tools.
7. Allan or Margaret must be advised immediately of any problems arising while you are working at MBG.
8. When you finish you must again contact Allan or Margaret to let them know what work was done and your finishing time for our records.

Contact Numbers:-

Allan – Mobile: 0419 005 895; Phone: 9746 6441

Margaret – Mobile: 0412 097 391; Phone: 5367 3328

Dave – Safety Officer: Mobile: 0417 560 353

## Renew your FMBG Membership

Membership renewals are due July 1.

Contact Jill or Margaret to renew.

The Membership/Renewal form is also 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)*

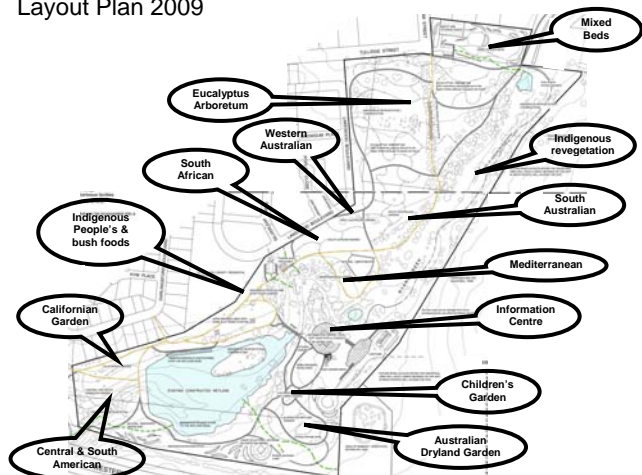


Here is Allan Benson's Dichondra repens that was planted in 2008 – Not sure why we call it Allan's. May be he visits

it often to see how it is going. Take a walk around the north section of Ryans Creek to see how well some of the early plantings are doing. We have noticed them spreading

## Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



## Membership

Renewals are due July 1<sup>st</sup> – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. We had 148 members in 2009-2010.

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 in July is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne. We have also managed to secure **Richard Allen** to speak in October about his new book "Australia's Remarkable Trees".

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

## 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.

## 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) Peter Sell
Safety Officer:	Dave Peters (5367 3328)
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)



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

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