



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

No.9



Photo: Lake Melton Botanic Garden

## What's on in September

### 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm

Meeting: Guest Speaker: John Patrick - Gardening Australia

### 9<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9am – Field Trip

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne  
Meet next to library, \$20 on bus, \$10 own car

### 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8am-5pm Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Contact Jill 9743 3819 if you can help

### 24<sup>th</sup> Friday 6.45-7pm FMBG Social Dinner

Melton Country Club – *contact Lynette 9747 9034*

### 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

## What's on in October

### 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday & Sunday Spring Launch at Bunnings

### 9th Saturday Platypus Festival Toolern Creek FMBG stall

### 10th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch

Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

### 13th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting

Guest Speaker: Richard Allen, author - *Australia's Remarkable Trees*

### 14<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 10-noon Grow the Garden

Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10-noon Grow the Garden

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.

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

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**



Members free, non-members \$5

You must book your seat with

Alan Partridge 9743 5761

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

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

## AGM and FMBG Executive Positions

The AGM was on the 11th August. We are looking for someone to fill the Vice-President position.

## Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 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**

A combined subgroups meeting was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Many of the issues previously raised have now been resolved. The establishment of a site preparation timetable is now possible. The group finalised a list of suggested trees based on the master plan and trees suitable for a rainfall of less than 400mm.

We have had a volunteer who can provide ripping, but need further volunteers with equipment relevant to path building and able to move heavy rocks.

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.

Really exciting things are happening as we are arranging to receive some large rocks from the Anthonys Cutting Re-alignment project.

If you visit the Eucalyptus Arboretum section you may find some yellow paint spots on the ground. An intrepid group on a cool Thursday on 2<sup>nd</sup> September marked out the primary paths in the area. Next we look forward to the ripping. We received a donation of \$100 from an APS member for purchase of Eucalyptus seeds. These have been ordered. David and Bard Pye are going to germinate the seeds. Volunteers will be called to help pot these up in November and next year. There are also 20,000 understorey shrubs, grasses and ground covers such as Eremophilas, Acacias, Grevillias, etc. to procure.



*The Path Markers (The Magnificent 7? – one is taking the photo)*

The fifth meeting of the Working Party will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.



*Combined Site Preparation and Planting Group Meeting (18/8)*



*Primary Path Marker*

**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

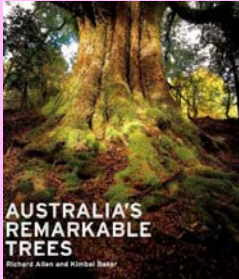
Site Preparation: David Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com  
John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au

Funding: John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au

**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

**13th October Wed 7.30pm**  
**FMBG presents Richard Allen**  
**Author of**  
**Australia's Remarkable Trees**



Book available for purchase on the night  
This is a presentation of a fantastic story of how the trees made it into the book together with some spectacular photographs

**National Green Jobs Corps Project**

National Green Jobs Corps team is continuing work in the Melton Botanic Garden. A number of days have been lost due to heavy rainfall. The project is run by CVGT Employment and Training. The trainees work is in the Melton Botanic Garden, Mt Rothwell and with Gro West. A National Green Jobs Corps Team are currently working two days a week in the Melton Botanic Garden weeding and planting.

**FMBG Talks to Groups**

**Bacchus Marsh Garden Club – 10<sup>th</sup> August**

John and Jill gave a presentation on the Melton Botanic Garden to the Bacchus Marsh Garden Club. It was also their AGM.

**Bulla Garden Club – 16<sup>th</sup> August**

Allan Benson, Jill Bentley and John Bentley presented at the Bulla Garden Club to 12 members on a fairly cool night.

Jodi from the Bulla Garden Club wrote in their Meetup web site the next day:

“ Last night's club meet was the best yet. John Bentley from Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden was our guest speaker. He gave a wonderful presentation about the creation of the Botanic Garden. He walked us through the design process, species selection and the future direction of the project. It was a truly insightful evening. As usual it was finished off with a wonderful supper.”

It certainly was a great supper and we were made very welcome by the group.

The Bulla Garden Club is affiliated with the Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden. This garden looks well worth a visit. Late October is probably the best time to go. FMBG may visit as a field trip in 2011.

The website is:

<http://www.meetup.com/Bulla-Garden-Club/>

**Woodgrove promotion**

In early August we held a promotional table at Woodgrove Shopping Centre to mainly promote the upcoming John Patrick presentation in September. However, we did get new member applications and renewals plus we handed out information about the Melton Botanic Garden. Thanks to all who helped out.



Lyn and Jill at Woodgrove Shopping Centre

**Keep Australia Beautiful National Sustainability Awards**

KAB national judge visited the Melton Botanic Garden on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August. FMBG are set up a marquee and display near the lagoon/billabong/small dam in the middle of the botanic garden where the amphitheatre is eventually going to be.

Thankyou to David P, Margaret P, Alan P, Allan B, Jill B, Janet D, and John B for setting up.

The judge was impressed by our marquee and display. Announcement of the National winner will be in November.



FMBG and MSC with the KAB judge

## Water Testing

The proceeds of the last Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser we allocated towards the purchase of our own water testing kit. Thanks to Janet Dyke for ordering the kit. Janet is the FMBG Water Watch and Frog Monitoring Co-ordinator.



FMBG Water testing Kit

If you are interested in water testing or need a skills refresher there is a Healthy Waterways Waterwatch training session on Thursday September 16th at the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Offices in Gisborne presented by Sam Harrison. This is a free training session which aims to teach basic water testing procedures such as physical and chemical testing and macroinvertebrate identification. It is an all-day event 9.30am-4.00pm and lunch will be provided.

Bookings Essential:

contact Sam Harrison - 0438 314 931or

Email [sam.harrison@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:sam.harrison@melbournewater.com.au)

## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Sunday 19th September

This is one of our main fundraising events. A number of key people are away for this fundraiser. As spring days are usually a busy day for Bunnings we **NEED YOUR HELP**.

Please contact Jill on 9743 3819 if you can assist at anytime during the day (8am-5pm)



Indigenous remnant grass near Ryans Creek MBG

## An Extract from the FriendsNet Newsletter Number 72 August 2010

Our May issue featured Municipal Groups. Robert Bender of Friends of Wilson Reserve, City of Banyule, has submitted these suggestions for managing a conservation effort in a Council reserve.

- Develop a good working relationship with the managing Council's environment and field staff: share planning of the year's activities; be sensitive to their views on what are acceptable tasks for a volunteer group and the range of plant species appropriate to the area; try not to make too much extra work for them (such as by making mountains of weeds for them to remove); communicate with them a lot, as with providing newsletters, reports of activities, copies of scientific permits, reports on what was done with grant money, reports on vandalism issues.

- Join in activities organised by Council staff, e.g. Clean Up Australia day, World Environment Day, community planting days in combination with other local conservation groups.

- Become aware of how responsibilities for the area are divided between the Council and other authorities, such as Melbourne Water, or Parks Victoria.

- Council reserves are on a much smaller scale than national parks so the field staff are much more visible, making it much easier to develop relationships if you are out and about in your park a fair bit. They are also much more likely to notice what you are doing.

## Vision for Werribee Plains Grant 2009/10

We have submitted the final report for the Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) Grant. This grant was over the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 for rehabilitation of Ryans Creek.

V4WP gave \$20,400 inc GST in grant money to FMBG for the project, MSC contributed \$18,200 and FMBG contributed \$12,700 in-kind. Both MSC and FMBG exceeded their expected contributions.

Max Coster the CEO of V4WP responded to FMBG saying: "Thanks for the evaluation and final report on the project. It has been a pleasure to work and assist the FoMBG and I wish your group all the best as you continue to work toward further development of the gardens."

Special thanks to MSC including Tony Herwerth, Brett Luxford and Rodney Thomas (now at Geelong) and all our volunteers who helped.

**FMBG Photo Competition**

The FMBG photo competition saw an impressive range of member photos on display. Voting was conducted by members placing heart stickers next the photos the liked best in each category. Category winners: Wildlife and plants – Lyn Nardella; Botanic garden scenes – Barb Pye; Flowers & close-up of plants – 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Partridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Sell (there were entries in this category); People and botanic gardens – David Pye; objects and plants –Jean Partridge; and, general section – John Bentley



Wildlife and Plants - Lyn Nardella  
New Holland Honeyeaters on Grevillea



Jean Partridge – Alan under a large River Red Gum



Alan Partridge – Banksia (at Graeme Woods Garden)



David Pye: Graeme Woods & bollard at Geelong Botanic Gardens



John Bentley: Plants general – Central American Cacti on the second story of the Conservatory at Beijing Botanic Gardens



Barb Pye: Riddiford Arboretum Broken Hill

Barb's photograph was selected as it shows a small collection of trees with an understory of shrubs, including saltbush at the Riddiford Arboretum. Being a low rainfall region, it was considered relevant to the Melton Arboretum proposals.

The Riddiford Arboretum features trees and shrubs of the region and is located opposite the Centro Shopping Centre. It was set up in 1988 on land that was a repair and oil transfer depot for the Silverton Tramway. It is named after Walter Riddiford, Mayor of Broken Hill from 1949 to 1962. But it is also a tribute to Albert Morris, a self-taught botanist who was responsible for establishing the Regeneration Reserves around the city. The plants in those reserves hold down the local dust and greatly reduced the previously horrible effects of the dust storms that turned day into night.

Source:

<http://www.pleasetakemeto.com/australia/outback-nsw/riddiford-arboretum-9104355>

## Grow the Garden Days 10am-noon

We held GTGDs on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Scouts and Cubs together with their parents joined us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for weeding. We filled 15-20 bags with weeds mainly *Galena pubescens* (Carpet weed) from near the north end of Ryans Creek. This was a great effort plus we could see the difference we made.



*Cubs, Scouts (and their parents) and FMBG Volunteers Weeding*



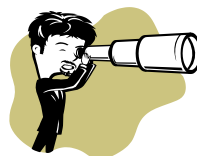
*Cubs, Scouts and FMBG Volunteers Weeding*



*It was a Sunday – Is that why Allan is on his knees or is he just getting down to where they weed are?*

Next Grow the Garden Days are Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

## 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

## 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.

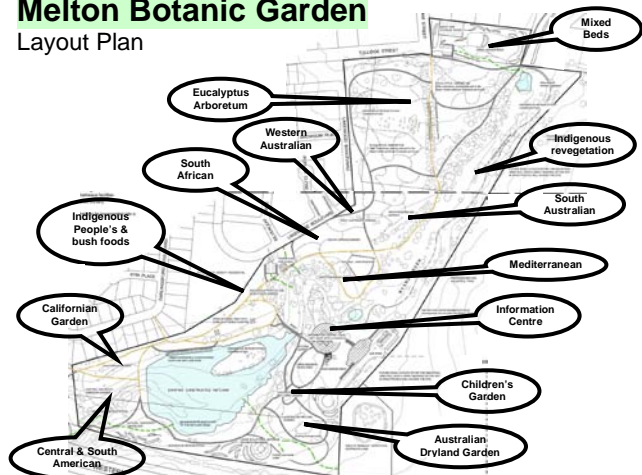
You can also pay by direct bank transfer to FMBG.

**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)**

## Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



## 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 – also think about 2011

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker was **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne in July. We have also managed to secure **Richard Allen** to speak in October about his new book "Australia's Remarkable Trees".

We are starting to work out next year's calendar if you have any suggestions please tell Janet Dyke.

## 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 2010/11

### 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

### Melton Toyota

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

### 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:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary:	Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members:	Jill Bentley (9743 3819)
	Lyn Nardella
	Peter Sell
Safety Officer:	Vacant
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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