Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.
Newsletter March/April 2011

No.13

Photo: FMBG February Meeting at the Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in March

6th Sunday 10am-noon Keep Australia Beautiful Clean-Up Day Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

9th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting
Bill Morrison on Growing Cacti & Succulents

10th Thursday 10-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

24th Thursday 2.30pm Working Party Meeting
Eucalyptus Arboretum meeting Melton Community Hall Meeting Room 1

25th Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner
To book please contact Lynette 9747 9034 by 20th March

27th Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

30th March to 3rd April Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show
Royal Exhibition Buildings - FMBG hanging basket on display

What's on in April

2nd April Diggers Rest Festival
FMBG plant sale and promotion

9th Saturday Field Trip – visit to Gardens

10th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch/Waterbug Identification
Melton Botanic Garden – Meet at rotundas

13th Wednesday 7.30pm Meeting
Chris Findlay of Flora Victoria - Grasslands & weed control

14th Thursday & 17th Sunday* 10-noon Grow the Garden (**Not the usual 4th Sunday due to Easter)*
Ryans Creek - Melton Botanic Garden

Wednesday 9th March 7.30pm Growing Cacti and Succulents Guest speaker: Bill Morrison

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

FMBG on the Radio – 3RRR 102.7FM

FMBG was on the Dirty Deeds garden show 1-2pm on Sunday 27th February. You can listen to the 3RRR Gardening Show with Huon, Laurel and Digga – go to podcasts on the 3RRR website. A link will also be on the FMBG website.

The Dirty Deeds team discussed the Melton Botanic Garden with John Bentley, covering his role as president, developmental plans and vision for the garden, horticultural issues, opportunities, challenges...what's on and events etc... See: www.rrr.org.au

New Victorian Place name "Melton Botanic Garden" its official!

The place name "Melton Botanic Garden" was listed in the Victoria Government Gazette on 10th February 2011. The listing is on page 236 of the Gazette online at: www.gazette.vic.gov.au - see GG2011G006.pdf
We have received a number of congratulations. The directional and site signage will be done by the Shire of Melton.
Congrats to every FMBG member. The large membership base helps to drive the Melton Botanic Garden.

Dhal Trust Grant

We have received the $15,000 from the Dhal Trust towards the Eucalyptus Arboretum. As part of the grant we must meet a number of goals. Please see the targets below we will use to measure the success of the project.

If you are able to help or take responsibility for any of these please let John Bentley know.

1) Promotion of the development of the Eucalyptus Arboretum and educational walk with at least 2 articles in local newspapers by August 2011.
2) Having an increase of at least 4 working bees over and above the regular scheduled FMBG activities of Grow the Garden Days by September 2011.
3) Conducting at least 2 guided walks of the Eucalyptus Arboretum with school, cubs and scout or community groups by September 2011. Invitations will be sent to all local schools by June 2011.
4) Production of a brochure and web page on the Eucalyptus Arboretum by July 2011.
5) Giving at least 2 talks to external groups on the development and aim of the Eucalyptus Arboretum by August 2011. We will also apply to give a presentation at BGANZ Forum Victoria in September 2011 on the establishment of a Eucalyptus Arboretum, this will be a follow-up from when we presented at the 2008 forum.
6) An increase in membership of at least 10% through the establishment of the Eucalyptus Arboretum and guided walks.
7) Melton Shire Council listing the Eucalyptus Arboretum as an attraction on its Tourism WebPages and a display the Melton Information Centre or Melton Library by September 2011.

Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Would you like your own FMBG name badge?

This badge would have the FMBG logo on it and your name. However, they cost about $15 each.

The Executive decided it was too expensive to provide these from FMBG funds.

If you would like one and are prepared to pay for the cost of the badge please see Jill Bentley.

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

Eucalyptus Arboretum

The eucalypt seedlings are still growing, and even more so since the Pyes moved them into the hot house.

Eucalypts in the hothouse

Spraying of weeds took place in early February. Many thanks to Ian Barry for scarification/ripping the area on Sunday 27th February.

Tractor scarifying the Eucalyptus Arboretum

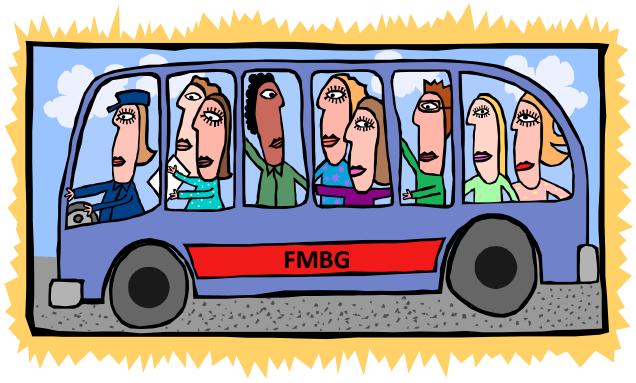
Completed ripping on east side of the Eucalyptus Arboretum

We are awaiting the establishment of the work for the dole team and the appointment of a team leader.

If you know anyone who is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project requires site preparation involving activities such as marking out, ripping, building pathways plus getting associated materials and equipment.

We have submitted a Vision for Werribee Plains grant application for $132,000. This requires an equivalent co-contribution from FMBG and partners. This will be met by the work for the dole team, FMBG volunteer hours, MSC contributions Western Water and other contributions.

FMBG Bus Trip Saturday 9th April 9.30am



It seems ages since we had our last bus trip.

On this trip we are planning some visits to home gardens to the north of Melton at Mount Macedon and Gisborne areas.

The cost is $10 if you are on the bus and $5 in your own car. We pay for the bus hire, petrol and gifts for our hosts.

We will be leaving promptly at 9.30am from the car park next to the Melton Library in Henry Street.

Please contact Alan Partridge to book a seat on the bus (9743 5761).

Keep Australia Beautiful
Clean Up Australia Day Sunday March 6th

FMBG will again host a Clean Up Australia Day event at the Melton Botanic Garden.
10am – 12noon followed by a free BBQ at Hannah Watts Park with the volunteers from other sites.
Meet at the Rotunda near the lake.
Enter via Lakeside Boulevard (Mel 337 C10).
Please wear sturdy shoes and long trousers and if possible bring your own gloves. If warm it is advisable to wear a hat.
Water will be provided. Morning tea will be available.
For more information please phone:
Janet Dyke on 0408 170 070
or go to http://www.cleanup.com.au

Clean Up Day
Major Sponsor
CommonwealthBank

FMBG Logo Badges

We have plently of badges thanks to Melbourne Water Grant and FMBG funds. Please let Jill know if you need a badge.
Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public– we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery.

Clean Up and WaterwatchDay

A good turnout for the clean-up and waterwatch day in February. We had some scouts join us. As a result of the clean-up the area looks much better.

Happy volunteers

Testing the turbidity

Volunteers Needed for FMBG Area Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

30th March to 3rd April Royal Exhibition Buildings.

FMBG will have an area in the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria stand on the second level of the main exhibition building. We have arranged to share a 3 metre area with APS Victoria.

Setting up is on Sunday 27th March. We have some trees, hanging baskets and display materials to get to the Exhibition Buildings for the stand. ***Do you have a ute or van to help deliver plants and set up the stand?*** If you can help please call John Bentley (9743 3819).

The FMBG hanging basket will be on display.

We also need volunteers to attend the show to be at the RHSV stand to talk to people about the Melton Botanic and distribute information.

Damage to Paths

Rains over summer have caused major damage to gravel paths in the Melton Botanic Garden.

The photo shows deep ruts caused by fast flowing water over spilling from Ryans Creek. This path is near the small dam close by the amphitheatre area.

Grow the Garden Days 10am-noon

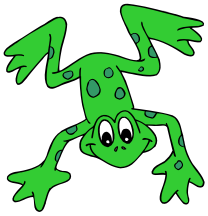
Next Grow the Garden Days are in March on Thursday 10th and Sunday 27th 10am-12noon.

Some FMBG members after weeding on 10th February

BGANZ

FMBG is an associate member of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Publications and information on their website is well worth reading if you are interested in Botanic Gardens.
The latest newsletter publication available online is The Botanic Garden - Issue 28 November 2010. See www.bganz.org.au

Ribbet-Ribbet! Frog Census for 2011



Excited by frogs? You should be as they are a good indicator of the health of waterways and our planet. Come along on Sunday 20th March at 5pm and help record frogs in the Melton Botanic Garden. Perhaps make your recording into your mobile phone ring tone.

Janet Dyke is our Frog Census Coordinator.

Please contact Janet if you wish to be involved in the Frog Census.
In January following the rains a Pobblebonk (banjo frog) was heard in Ryans Creek.
To see what frogs have been recorded around Melton go to: www.frogs.melbournewater.com.au
You enter your area details to get a list of frog sightings, find a description and listen to their call.

Receive the RHSV magazine

The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria has an excellent quarterly magazine 'Gardeners Gazette'. As FMBG are RHSV Associate Members, RHSV have offered FMBG members a discount offer. The cost is $10/year for 4 issues posted to FMBG. You would need to collect your magazine at a meeting or from the FMBG Secretary. Please see Janet if you are interested.

Ryans Creek – What is flowering now?

These photographs were taken at Ryans Creek of some of plants in flower right now.

Lycopus australis
Australian gypsywort

Lythrum salicaria
Purple loosestrife

The purple loosestrife looks stunning at the moment. There are a number of stands along the creek. Lycopus australis has small white flowers from January to March. It will die back in June for winter. It is a semi aquatic herb which grows to 1 to 1.5 m high with clumps of stems developed from an underground rhizome.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting is Monday 28th March 7.30pm – at the Bentley's.

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.

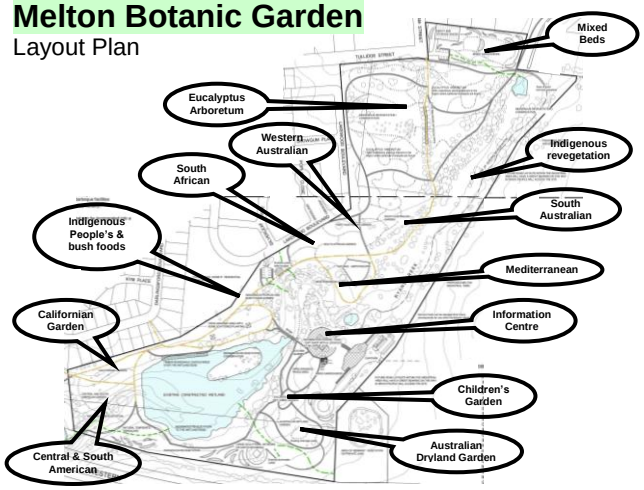
There is parking, easy access, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

Propagating for FMBG Plant Sales

If you wish to assist with propagation and growing some plants please contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328.
Please ensure that any potted plants you donate are saleable. This means they are healthy, planted in potting mix, in good pots and clean. The public are very discerning when making purchases.

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010. So far we have 140 members for 2010-2011. We are aiming for 160 by 30th June, and 200 in 2011-2012.

Single-$10, Single concession or student-$5, Household/Concession-$20/$10, Associate-$20, Corporate-$50

The Membership/Renewal form is available 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
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.

2011 Calendar

We have an exciting speaker program for 2011. To name a few we have: Bill Morrison on Growing Cacti & Succulents, Chris Findlay from Flora Victoria on grasslands & weed control, Richard Barley CEO of the Open Garden Scheme, Don Journet from the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia on 'Why conserve garden plants', Lindy Lumsden Australasian Bat Society on Bats and Marcus Ryan of Lambley Nursery fame on Mediterranean Plants.

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

Platinum Accounting & Taxation
9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337
Ph: (03) 9746 6479
Manager: Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

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:	Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
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 – John is filling in
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

FMBG can give presentations to groups. Guided tours of the garden can be arranged for groups.

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

Newsletter:
Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)
Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

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