



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter July/August 2012

Growing Plants Growing People

No.21



Eucalyptus Arboretum – from north-west corner on 30 June 2012 – Community Planting Day ©Photo by John Bentley

July Events

2nd Monday 2.30-5pm Eucalypts Arboretum Working Party Meeting
MSC Offices

11th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting
Small Eucalypts - Jason Caruso

22nd Sunday 10am - noon Grow the Garden Day

29th Sunday 10am - noon National Tree Day
Followed by a free sausage sizzle

August Events

8th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting – AGM

12th Sunday Clean Up Day & Waterwatch
Meet at the rotundas near the lake
Contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

17th-19th Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference Port Augusta

26th Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day

Regular Activity Groups

***Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum

***Lakers:** 2nd and 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – meet at the Lake

***Ryans Creekers:** Thursdays 10am-noon – Meet Ryans Creek



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

Best Community or Not for Profit Organisation



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM

National Tree Day

Sunday 29th July

at the

Melton Botanic Garden

10am – noon

Followed by sausage sizzle



Enter by the gate in Williams Street.

Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
Drive at no more than 10km/h with hazard lights on in the garden. Follow the gravel road to where cars are parked.

It would be very helpful if you could please bring your own gloves and digging implements.

Contact Jill Bentley 9743 3819

FMBG is international - we have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday 11th July 7.30pm

Small Eucalypts

Jason Caruso

This presentation covers some of the more unusual but splendid small eucalypts that you probably won't see at Bunnings or other nurseries.

A most interesting feature of the presentation is that we have planted many of these eucalypts in the Dryland Eucalyptus Arboretum.

See the eucalypts in their full glory as Jason points out their distinctive features.



Eucalyptus erythrocorys

Photo source: David and Barb Pye

Jason will provide tips on growing small eucalypts from his experience on a small suburban block

Most of his eucalypts are in pots.

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Wednesday 8th August 7.30pm



**Annual General Meeting
and Photo Competition**



For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Photo Competition

Printed photos can be any size up to A4 and must have been taken by the entrant.

There are seven categories:

- 1) Plant Portraiture - images of plants and flowers in Botanic Gardens
 - 2) Plant Portraiture – general images of plants and flowers
 - 3) Garden Views
 - 4) Garden Creatures
 - 5) Garden Objects
 - 6) People in Botanic Gardens
 - 7) General section – must include a plant
- So get snapping and looking through your collection of images.

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.

Ted and others at the Grow the Garden Day in June. About 180 Acacias were planted. This area is going to look spectacular.



Grants Update 2012

FMBG were successful in the grant application for \$3,441 from the Melton Shire Council's Community Funding Program in the category of Community Strengthening. The grant submission entitled "Equipping People" is for a trailer and marquee that can be used to support the groups who come work in the Melton Botanic Garden such as CVGT, schools and scouts.

We also received a Melton Shire Council Environmental Grant of \$1,000 towards 80 tree labels. Soon we should have 180 trees labelled in the Melton Botanic Garden.

Renew Your Membership



We made 200 members by 30 June 2012

2011-2012 Membership numbers:

Individual: 206

Corporate: 7

Associate: 1

We are aiming to at least maintain this target for 2012/2013

Please renew your member and try to sign up a friend

For membership information please contact:
Jill Bentley 9743 3819 or see the website

Black shouldered kites

We sighted two black shouldered kites flying above the Eucalyptus arboretum and Ryans Creek over the last month. It is inspiring to see the variety of birds in the Melton Botanic Garden.



Photo courtesy of Nora Peters (www.ozwildbirds.com)

Rabbits and Hares

Unfortunately these fluffy and cute creatures have also been sighted in the MBG but they have been eating the new understory plants in the Eucalyptus Arboretum. The MSC Rabbit Man has been down to the garden to have a look and is working on a plan. You should see signs for rabbit baiting in place very soon. Hares are hard to catch because they have to be netted and cannot be baited.

Willy Wagtails

Whilst on animals the Willy Wag Tails have become very friendly in the Melton Botanic Garden.

Stop for lunch or a tea break and they will be at your feet picking up any crumbs. They come very close when digging as they like to get close to pick up any worms or insects they can see in the fresh diggings (also see the Gumnuts report for their experience).



Willie Wag Tail at the Community Planting Day

Grow the Garden Day

An unexpected visitor was found attached to one member after we had finished planting on Sunday 24th June.



Clean Up Day Report 10th June

A very good attendance for the clean up day which resulted in just one hour's work for everyone involved. Again people are taking notice and behaving well as there was very little rubbish to collect. It is good to see the gardens looking in excellent condition. Whether this is due to winter conditions or little construction on the housing front, I don't know. Nevertheless it is good to see our members taking an interest in the upkeep of the gardens. Also the sausage sizzle went down well.

Reporters: Les and Elaine



Enjoying the lunch at the Clean Up Day



The Clean Up Day gang

Monthly Meeting Report 13th June

Many thanks to our guest speaker Helen Lovel from Neutrog Fertilisers.

She went into great detail about how to fertilise our gardens and about the Pooh-bah Club. Everyone received free samples of Neutrog products. Hopefully our gardens will benefit from these products. Also she explained what products will be most beneficial for roses, lawns and orchids. It was a very educational night.

Margaret told us that we had saved a little money on the arboretum to help pay for the cost of our new shed in the depot area. Well done. It can only be of great benefit to everyone.

Reporter: Les and Elaine

Gumnuts Report

Gumnuts on 19th June

Once again a few of us worked tirelessly to plant tubes of plants in the Arboretum. This time we had the pleasure of a Willy Wag Tail all day. Yes that is true. He joined us for lunch and helped put the plants in. It made the day very enjoyable. Unfortunately I was not there on the previous

Gumnut day 5th June as I had a virus and couldn't get there.

If anyone had a couple of hours to spare on these days or any other days which the members are working on various activities, please come along as your help will be invaluable.

Reporter: Les Gordon

Thursday 21st June was a really wet day for the workers (maybe they should be called the Gumboots group). The group persisted through the rain and cold and got many plants into the wet ground. They also got pretty muddy.



A cold and wet but a happy gumnut



It was easy to get the sticks in the ground

Jane Edmanson Visits MBG and Friends

Jane Edmanson our patron visited the Melton Botanic Garden on Monday 25th June. It turned out to be a wet and windy afternoon. Jane was very impressed by the work of the Friends and the garden. She gave a big plug about her visit and MBG on the Big Backyard on 3AW on Saturday 30th June and had a letter published in the Leader Newspaper on 3 July page 16.



BGANZ

FMBG is an associate member of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Publications and information on their website are well worth reading if you are interested in Botanic Gardens.

See: www.bganz.org.au

Inspirational Quotes for Volunteers

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit under"

Anon

Volunteers don't just do the work they make it work.

Carol Pettit

If you're watching to learn....Watch!

If you're watching for a break....Speak up!

If you're watching for me to stop....leave!

If you're here to help....Grab a shovel!

Suzanne Carroll

A New Zealand Maori Proverb

<i>Ko taku rourou</i>	<i>With my resources</i>
<i>Ko tau rou rou</i>	<i>And your resources</i>
<i>Ka ora te tangata</i>	<i>Everyone will benefit</i>

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. Anon

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once in a while, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. Anon.

Have you considered being on the Executive Committee or taking a lead in an FMBG activity?

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

**Arid Inland Botanic Gardens Port Augusta
17th – 19th August**

**Eight FMBG members are attending
We will host a promotional display
and we will give a brief presentation
See: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org**

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

Understorey planting continues at a pace. We have held four very successful Community Planting Days. New people have gotten involved with the Melton Botanic Garden. It is good to see Australian Plant Society members from the Melton and Bacchus Group and the Keilor Plains Group at planting days.

CVGT have commenced and are planting during July so we will schedule the next Community Planting Days in August.

Dave and Barb Pye are off to Central Australia for 6 weeks for a well earned break. Barb Pye received a drawing from one of our younger members, Kaley Roe, who had been planting with Barb in the Eucalyptus Arboretum at a Community Planting Day.



Kaley Roe's picture of the Melton Botanic Garden



Watering the plants

FMBG Bus Trip Attila Kappitany's Garden and Kuranga Native Nursery

Sunday 17th November

You may have seen Attila's succulent garden featured on ABC Gardening Australia. This is advanced notice because you need to book a seat on the bus early as this will be a very popular trip.

This is a combined trip with the Melton Garden Club and have booked two buses. In the afternoon we will visit Kuranga Native Nursery and Paperbark Café.

Cost is \$20 and needs to be paid to book your seat on the bus.

Please contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly
7.30pm at the Bentleys

Depot

Construction has commenced on the depot and the shed will be erected by mid-July. Slab and frame have been completed at time of publication.

We still require some funds to finish the depot to connect power and fit out the 15m x 8m shed. Thank you to Dave Peters who has taken over the depot project as David Pye is away.

The shed will provide for large equipment storage, shelter, toilets and a kitchen facility.



Aaron staking some of the plants along Lakewood Boulevard the western side of the Eucalyptus Aroretum

Contributions to help build the Arboretum:

If you or anyone you know is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment. We are constructing a depot with a 15m x 6m shed, and fencing. The shed will have a concrete slab floor, large equipment storage, toilet and kitchen. We do need to raise funds to connect electricity and wire-up the shed.

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

CWA Melton Owls

The CWA Melton Owls Group wrote to FMBG asking if it was possible to have a tree planted in the Melton Botanic Garden to celebrate CWA Owls as a Community Group. The Executive Committee agreed to the request.

On 30th June 3 members of the CWA Melton Owls planted three Eucalyptus Torwood seedlings in the south west corner of the Eucalyptus Arboretum and some understory plants. They are organising a plaque.



CWA members with the trees and shrubs they planted



Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Have you seen anyone wearing their new name badge? Would you like your own FMBG name badge?

A badge will cost you \$20 which includes GST.

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

If you would like one please see Jill Bentley.

CVGT Team in the Melton Botanic Garden

The CVGT Work Experience Team has commenced.

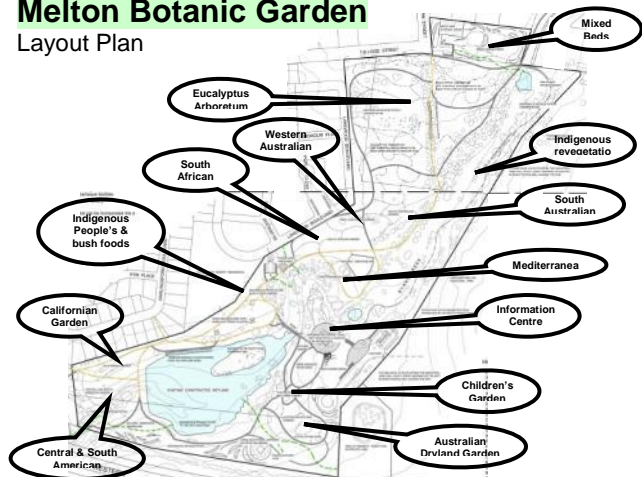
They are already working very hard in the garden.

They will continue in the Melton Botanic Garden for 6 months finishing in mid-December.

Please say hello and make them welcome if you see them. The team will be working on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



Membership

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

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We had 206 members in 2011-2012. So please try to sign up a new member to help us keep a strong membership base.

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.

2012 Calendar

We are well underway to confirming all the speakers for meetings and planning trips for 2012. **If you have any suggestions for speakers later in the year or next year please contact 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 2011/12

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
Ph: (03) 9747 0855 Fax: (03) 9747 9593
<http://www.westernland.com.au>

Your Executive 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
	Corinne Cole
	Allan Benson
Safety Officer:	John Bentley
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

FMBG can give presentations to groups as well as host guided tours of the garden



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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