



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.

Newsletter August 2014

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 28

August Events

Sunday 10th 10.00 am - noon **Clean Up Day**
Waterwatch & Frog ID at Melton Botanic Garden

Wednesday 13th 7.30 pm **Meeting**
Speaker Anne Langmaid: Flinders Ranges trip

Sunday 24th 10.00 – noon **Grow the Garden Day**
Melton Botanic Garden

Wednesday Sunday 8th-10th **AFBG Conference**
Gold Coast

September Events

Wednesday 10th 7.00 **Annual General Meeting**
at Melton Library **Guest Speaker**
David Wilson speaks about Lathams Snipe
Venue: Melton Library, 31 McKenzie St Melton

Friday 26th FMBG Social Dinner

Sunday 28th 10.00 – noon **Grow the Garden Day**
Melton Botanic Garden

Regular Activity Groups

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

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

***Creekers:** Thursdays 9am-noon – Meet Depot/Ryans Creek



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm at the Bentley's house



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue (Mar-Aug)

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 Annual General Meeting Wednesday 10th
September 7.00 pm
Melton Library

JULY EVENTS

NAIDOC Week Walk

On Friday 11th July FMBG hosted a guided walk through the Melton Botanic Garden to see local indigenous plants from the Melton region, to celebrate NAIDOC Week. A highlight of the walk was the Koorie Garden designed by Melton Koorie primary & secondary students. This garden features plants indigenous to this region, arranged around a feature representing a dry creek bed with a stylised turtle in the middle. A nearby garden will feature plants that were of use or significance to local Koorie people.

The walk was followed by morning tea. Highlights were the natural features & remnant vegetation, Ryans Creek indigenous plantings & the Victorian Volcanic Plains gardens.





John Bentley discussing Koorie Students garden



Isopogon growing beside the gate

Professional Photo Shoot at FMBG

A professional photo shoot as held on Tuesday 15th July to get some promotional photos for FMBG use, by Brendan Spiteri.

Brendan Spiteri kindly offered to take the photos for free. His business details are:

Brendan Spiteri, Photographer & Owner of:
Extreme Exposure Photography
 8 Claretown Avenue, Caroline Springs VIC 3023
 phone: (03) 8372 5677 Mobile: 0433 952 217;
 Email brenton@eephotography.com.au;
 W www.eephotography.com.au;
 FB www.facebook.com/ExtremeExposurePhotography;



SUMMARY OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monthly meeting Friday, 12th February 2014

First meeting for 2014! This meeting was mainly a get together for all our members, their families and their friends. It was held on the 12th February at the depot in William and Tullidge Streets. It consisted of a BBQ, raffle and walks through the Gardens. It was a chance to renew old friendships and to see how the gardens are progressing. It was a wonderful night that was enjoyed by everyone.

Creekers and Gumnuts.

December and January have been mainly taken up with watering. A lot of maintenance has been completed. As we all know, the temperatures have been extreme to say the least. Thanks to the CVGT teams, mulching has saved a lot of plants. Also a lot of thanks to John Candy for the use of his 4WD vehicle to tow the Furphy Tank. It makes watering a lot easier. Hopefully the plants will survive and 2014 is the start of a great year.

Monthly meeting Saturday, 12th March

The meeting went off very well. Progress on the Gardens is slowly coming to fruition. The visit by Jane Edmanson was extremely pleasing with quite a few in attendance.

Our guest speakers at the meeting were Dave & Barb Pye. They talked about their West Australian tour, showing us the various plants and trees they came across on their tour to Alice Springs. They gave a fascinating talk on the homesteads and townships they travelled through. I think one would have to travel in that area to appreciate the Australian Outback and lifestyle.

Our weekly working parties, Gumnuts, Lakers and Creekers are working extremely hard to maintain the gardens due to lack of rain. I think we need some help from upstairs with the water!

Monthly meeting Monday, 9th April 2014

Our guest speaker this month was Gerard Morel from Western Water. He spoke on the Health of our Waterways. The talk was very interesting indeed, especially when he touched on Melton Waterways, ie Ryans and Toolern Creeks. Gerard was heavily involved in enforcement of the corridors surrounding the waterways, to prevent over development by developers and prevention of pollution from housing estates. He was very pleased by our quality of our water testing being done every month or so.

John discussed our new Sensory Garden Design. Its shape is a little bit different now from the original plan. Hopefully it will be a big improvement.

Also he discussed the PAG involvement in the new garden area in front of William Street and the depot. A lot of work still has to be done.

It is sad to report that we had three break ins at the depot during the last month. Thieves cut the fence surrounding the depot and broke into the three sheds behind the depot and stole a lawn mower, hoses and other items of value. Images were captured but the damage had to be repaired. I know it is happening everywhere but still it is of concern to everyone who has put in the hard yakka to keep everything up and running.

We are doing wonderfully well at Kurunjang Primary School in helping the students in their gardening projects. Many thanks to John, Jill and Elaine for their tremendous help.

Also this month we had a visit from Jane Edmanson and Costa (from the ABC TV show Gardening Australia) concerning all our good work at the Melton Botanic Gardens. A nice surprise. It was televised on 24th May 2014. Hopefully next month will be great news.

Monthly meeting 14th May 2014

Our guest speakers in May were Neil Marriott and Glenda Lewin, from the Wildlife Art Museum and the Grampians Botanic Gardens.

They are setting up the Botanic Gardens at Halls Gap in the Grampians. They inherited 17 hectares and have divided the area into three zones. Also they inherited a natural dam and underground spring. This will keep them supplied with water for a long time. They are clearing the area for prevention of bush fires and have started on zone 1. This consists of buildings and parking areas. With 17 hectares they have a long way to go. As with all new gardens, they need funds. They were approaching Canberra for help. We wish them the best of luck in the present financial climate.

On the home front, we received \$5,000.00 from Rotary at the TAB Corp. Park entertainment. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

As we all know, our premises were broken into for the 4th time. Some stolen items have been returned due to good Police work. Also we found stolen items in the park next to the depot. They were awaiting collection by the thieves. Many thanks to the Police!

Costa from Gardening Australia on ABC presented our gardens on Saturday 24th May. A DVD will be available in the near future from the ABC Shop.

Kurunjang Primary School The Gardening Program at Kurunjang Primary School is coming along well. The beds and screenings are laid, are laid and the soil is in place. The students under our guidance are extremely helpful. All I can say is well done to everyone!

Creekers. I have missed a few hours there due to dentist visits, but we are progressing well with replacement plants

planted every week. But we need more rain to help the plants grow.

Monthly meeting 11 June 2014

Our guest speaker was Graeme Woods, who gave a very informative on Hakeas. It was very hard to distinguish Grevilleas from Hakeas. Graeme demonstrated how to plant Hakeas from seeds and cuttings.

John spoke on both the Western and South Australian Gardens. We are endeavouring to set up a watering system for these gardens. Hopefully it will come true.

Also sale of plants are taking place at the depot on a weekly basis. If you haven't noticed, the boys are setting up an area for car parking. The Council has laid down strict guidelines.

The D J Cunningham Hall will be under renovations from September onwards and we will be looking for another venue hold our monthly meetings. More news on that will come later.

Our AGM will be held in September. Also we received a grant of \$1,000.00 from the Council a couple of weeks ago. This will be used to produce a booklet on birds in the gardens.

Cleanup Day.

We were very pleased to see students from Monash University come and help in the last cleanup day. They have been here before but they are always welcome to help any time. Our thanks go to them as always.

Creekers

We are continuing to repair and weed on the eastern side of Ryans Creek, as well as replanting. This will continue along that side until the whole area is completed. The odd job boys are doing a great job in maintaining and repairing all the necessary jobs around the depot. Keep up the good work.

Monthly meeting 9 July 2014

Our guest speaker was Nora Peters. To those who didn't realise, Nora runs Nora's Driving School! She spoke on the birds and insects that inhabit Melton Botanic Gardens. There is a rich diversity of birds and bugs in the Garden. Over thirty people attended and everyone who came was very impressed by her talk.

A reminder to every one of the photo session at the Garden on the 15th July.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and best wishes for Elaine. I shall pass this on next time I see her. She should be in hospital for at least three days. Les

Creekers

For the last few weeks we have propagated plants on behalf of Dave Pye. The weather has been too

inclement to work outside lately. The only good thing is we don't have to water!

Elaine & Les.

Call for tools

Do you have any useable tools that you can donate to FMBG?



We are seeking tools such as saws, hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrenches, spanners, spirit levels, tape measures etc. and even power tools (but only if they are in a good, safe and working condition). Please contact John Bentley if you have any tools that you can donate – 9743 3819

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains 2nd Ed.

FMBG copies to sell of this excellent book which was released in August 2012.



This book is available to purchase from Margaret Peters on 5367 3328

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

It is an excellent resource for members and you might like to purchase it as a present for someone.

Plant sales have commenced at the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Nursery.

WHEN:

Tuesdays from 10.00 - 1.00pm, or other times by appointment

WHERE:

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery, 21 Williams Street, Melton

WHAT:

Native plants grown in the Melton Botanic Garden
A range of plants including Eremophila and Eucalyptus varieties
Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens
Some decorative succulents
Forestry tubes, 70 mm pots and 90 mm pots, for \$2, \$3 and \$5

CONTACT:

www.fmbg.org.au or botanicfriends@fmbg.org.au

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

Advice from a tree

Stand up and be proud
Sink your roots into the earth
Be content with your natural beauty
Go out on a limb
Drink plenty of water
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!

-Ilian Shamir

Lathams Snipe: not just another wetland bird

The Lathams Snipe is an unassuming wetland bird with an inordinately long bill. It migrates from Siberia & Japan, (hence its alternative name, Japanese Snipe) to Australia each summer, then makes the return flight to the Northern Hemisphere again for the northern summer.

Why is this bird important to FMBG?

The Lathams Snipe has been recorded by local birdwatchers in Ryans Creek in what is now the Botanic Gardens for 10 years!
It is also protected by at least 15 Legislative Acts & international treaties!

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=863;

This high degree of protection should ensure a similar degree of protection to both the Botanic Garden, & hopefully its immediate surrounds.

A handy bird to have in the garden!

David Wilson will speak about Lathams Snipe on Wednesday 10th September at the Melton Library

Aspire Villawood Grant

Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens have received a grant of \$1000 for plant labels in the Koorie Student Garden

Farewell Leo Johnson

Leo (Tiger) Johnson was a founding member of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden. Leo was an active member, the FMBG Public Officer until 2012, and was Vice-President in 2004.

Along with Lyn Holdsworth, Leo was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Leo was involved in a number of community activities including: Djerriwarrh Employment and Education Services, 979FM Community Radio. Friends of Melton Botanic Garden, Friends of Toolern Creek, Red Cross, Catholic Care Melton, Melton Cemetery Trust.

The world needs more people like Leo.
He will be missed



WaterWatch training



2009 Cleanup Australia Day

Also many thanks go to CVGT for their assistance in maintaining and watering the plants, trees and shrubs. Also to the PAG group (people with disability) who help out every month. Also before I forget, thanks to the students from the University Campus for their help in constructing the information shelter. Every little bit helps. Thanks.

September

10th Wednesday Annual General Meeting at Melton Library
7.00 pm
10th Wednesday Meeting: Speaker David Wilson will speak
7.30 pm about Lathams Snipe
Melton Library, 31 McKenzie St
Melton

26th Friday
6.30

FMBG Social Dinner

28th Sunday

Grow the Garden Day at the
Melton Botanic Garden

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. We had 2018 members in 2013/4! 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.

2014 Calendar

The calendar is available . We have confirmed nearly all the speakers for meetings and trips for 2013. **What suggestions do you have for 2015 activities? Please let us know.**

FMBG Corporate Membership

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

FMBG Corporate Members**Melton Home Timber and Hardware**

45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9743 5033
Managers Brad & Scott Morten

Lampe Family Lawyers

Level 4/326 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 9326 3811
Fax: (03) 9326 4344
Web: www.lampe.com.au
Email: enquiries@lampe.com.au

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

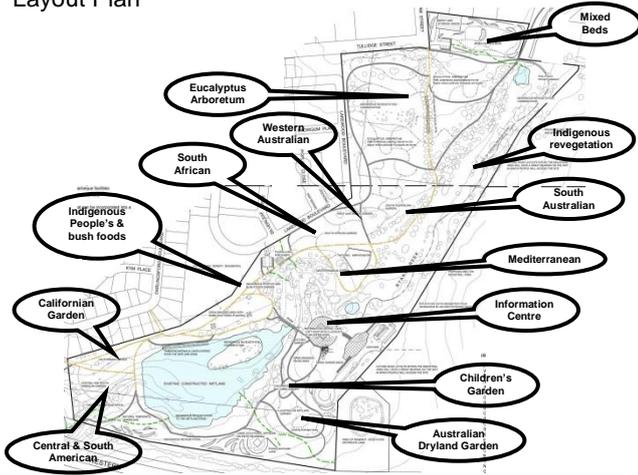
20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9747 0855 Fax: (03) 9747 9593
<http://www.westernland.com.au>

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)
	Dave Peters
	Anne Langmaid
	Myles Bentley
Safety Officer:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan



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 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

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Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: editor@fmbg.org.au