



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter August 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 34

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Join us at our meeting venue at Arnolds
Creek Community Centre 19 Claret Ash Blvd,
Melton West Vic 3337
Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

August Meeting & AGM

It's our AGM and we have nominations for all
positions. Our theme for discussion at the meeting is
Tourism and the MBG.



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM



Category Winner

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013

sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

Executive Committee

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

Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

- **Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Lakers:** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon
- **Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon
- **Safaris:** Tues & Thurs 9.30am-noon
- **Sandgropers:** 2nd & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

LEADER LOCAL GRANTS



John Bentley, from Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, has applied for a Leader Local Grant.

Picture: DAVID SMITH

Botanic Garden applies for seed money

KEEPING Melton's botanic garden blooming is one of the many ways Leader Local Grants can benefit the Melton community.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden has been nominated for a \$1000 Leader Local Grant to ensure it can continue to grow the city's 26th botanic garden.

Group president John Bentley said it had big plans to see the gardens grow and

there were some exciting new projects under way.

They include the new Western Australian and South Australian garden and Southern African garden, while Scouts from across the district are helping to establish an Indigenous Peoples Garden.

Mr Bentley said the new gardens would complement the existing garden areas such as the Eucalyptus Ar-

boretum, Sensory Garden, Koori Student Garden, Victorian Volcanic Plains Garden and the Indigenous

plantings along Ryans Creek and around the lake.

But to keep these gardens growing, the group relies on volunteers, grants and donations.

"Volunteers also run a plant nursery to help raise funds for developing the garden," Mr Bentley said.

He said a Leader Local Grant would go a long way towards purchasing more plants and further develop the garden beds.

"Come and visit the garden, have a barbecue at the lake, and take a walk and see what we are up to," he said.

Applications for Leader Local Grants close on Friday, July 24, and can be made online at leaderlocal.grants.com.au

Please vote for FMBG. We really need this grant!
Voting period is: 3rd August 2015 to 14th August 2015

Melton Botanic Garden NAIDOC Walk



John Bentley at future Indigenous Peoples Garden

During NAIDOC Week Friends of Melton Botanic Garden hosted a guided walk through the Melton Botanic Garden to see the indigenous plants. The one and a half hours walk was followed by morning tea.

Highlights were the remnant vegetation in the garden, the indigenous plantings on Ryans Creek, the Koori Student Garden designed by Koori students from Melton primary and secondary schools, the Victorian Volcanic Plains Garden and the lakeside indigenous plantings

NAIDOC Week in Melton



FMBG table at Melton's NAIDOC celebration

John quoted the old proverb:

The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago.

The second best time is now!

New signage at the MBG



New plant label for eucalypts

New signage at the MBG



New sign in the Melton Botanic Garden. It explains the use of compost from the green bins that has been added to the Southern African beds.

We also received an award from the Australian Organics Recycling Association for "Victorian Compost User Demonstrating Innovation and Advocacy in Amenity Markets"

Combined Christian Churches Food Bank

Some Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden and Djerriwarrh Horticulture II graduates built and planted garden beds today for the new Melton food bank building.



New maps at the MBG



Many thanks to Dave Peters for installing the new maps.

Thanks also to Sign Perfection for adjusting the maps for printing and producing the signs, and to Mike Smith & Associates and Lena for doing the artwork.

Thanks go to Melton City Council for funding one of the maps.

Weed Safari

A very successful Weed Safari in the Southern African Trial Beds! Thank you to all the weeders. Two and a half trial beds weeded.



John Bentley reports a comment made on LinkedIn about the MBG from John Mason.

"Congratulations - Wonderful to see. I was the first Parks Superintendent at Melton (from 1973-76) and I know the challenge of growing plants in your area. Over that time we went from one gardener in the main street and very few, largely neglected parks, to a staff of 50 and rapid development of parkland, thanks to lots of funding from Gough Whitlam at the time. Keep up the good work."

Comment received from the Royal Park Officer for Open Space Management and Maintenance who with the Royal Park gardeners were hosted on a guided tour of the Melton Botanic Garden recently.

"I just wanted to send you a quick email to thank you for the time spent showing myself and my gardening team around your gardens. The guided tour was very informative. We were extremely impressed with what you have achieved as volunteers and your amazing efforts in pursuing the grants to make it happen. The gardens are very impressive."

Pink-bellied Moth in MBG



This beautiful Pink-bellied Moth (*Oenochroma vinaria*) was recently photographed in Melton Botanic Garden by Dave Pye. The wing pattern mimics the pattern on a dead leaf. It even has a line to mimic the central leaf vein! Although conspicuous on the blue-green leaf in this photo; when resting among leaf litter on the ground it is almost invisible. Just another example of the diversity of wildlife in Melton's Botanic Garden.



White-faced Herons at the MBG



These two White-faced Herons photographed by John Bentley's daughter at the Melton Botanic Garden in Ryans Creek about 100metres from the lake.

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, 2nd and 4th Sunday
10am-noon or other times by appointment
Melton Botanic Garden Nursery
21 Williams Street, Melton

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

Prices

Forestry tubes \$2, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

Facebook and Twitter Fans

If you use Facebook and/or Twitter you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type "Melton Botanic Garden" into the search box and you should be able to find us

'BREAD IS BAD FOR ME'

New sign at MBG



Well-meaning visitors to parks where waterbirds are a prominent feature frequently feed bread to the birds. This is in fact bad for them as their digestion is not equipped for large volumes of highly processed foods such as bread (Neither is ours!) Duck food is available from the pet and feed store just around the corner and would be more suitable for feeding ducks.

Melton's Wet Weekend in July

John Bentley commented on the rainfall of the cold, wet weekend of 11th and 12th July.

"Checked the gauge at 5pm.

13.9 mm today

4.5mm Saturday

3.5mm overnight Friday

Total about 22mm this weekend"

Other reports were:

Alan and Jean Partridge

Friday night to Saturday night 8.5mm

Sunday 15mm

Total 23.5mm over weekend

Dave Peters

19mm in total at Hopetoun Park.

Janet & Tony Dyke

Total over weekend:

Bridge Road 23.2mm

Strathtulloh 22mm

Dave Pye

37mm in total for us at Bullengarook

2015 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc. will be held on:
Wednesday 12th August 2015 commencing at 7:30pm at Arnolds Creek Community Centre 19 Claret Ash Blvd Melton West

All Executive positions will become vacant at this meeting:

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER

TREASURER

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (4)

NON-EXECUTIVE / OTHER FMBG POSITIONS for 2015-2016:

SAFETY OFFICER

RETURNING OFFICER

We have received nominations for all positions

AGM Agenda:

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Acceptance of Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting
3. Business arising from Previous Minutes
4. Reports: President, Treasurer and any other reports
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. Membership Fees
7. Other business for which due notice has been given.



We have new stock of a great book for those interested in native plants. On sale at the FMBG Nursery at \$15 for FMBG members and \$20 for non-members

Membership

Membership fees are due by 30 June 2015

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

We welcome all our new members and your membership helps support the development of the botanic garden and we hope you can participate in our activities.

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 had 206 members in 2011-2012 and 218 members in 2013/14. **In 2014/15 we have achieved our greatest financial membership total ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. Well done everyone.**

Please help to sign up a new member to keep up 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.

For membership information please contact Jill Bentley on 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form

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
	Jen Eldridge
Safety Officer:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
FMBG Librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

*FMBG can give presentations to groups
and 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) / Daryl Akers
Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

FMBG Corporate Members 2014/15

Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

2 Holland Drive, Melton, VIC 3337
Phone: (03) 9971 4444
www.alanmancenissan.com.au

Aquarium Leasing Specialists

Manager: John Candy
Phone: 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338
aquarium@westnet.com.au

Callea Pearce Lawyers

MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
BACCHUS MARSH: 127 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh. 5367 2283
WERRIBEE: Ballan House, 1 Duncans Road, Werribee. 8742 6162
Web: www.calleapearce.com.au

Everite Garden Supplies

19 Melton Valley Drive
Melton Victoria
Phone: 9743 6021
office@everitegs.com.au

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 Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, Vic. 3337
Phone: (03) 9743 5033
Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338
Phone: (03) 9743 5201
Manager: Peter Earl

Melton Toyota

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

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337
Phone: (03) 9746 6479
Manager: Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

Satellite City Furniture

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337
Phone: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

Western Land Services

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