



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter March 2016

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 40

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue Join us at our NEW meeting venue Botanica Springs Community Centre

249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield VIC 3338
Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

April Meeting

Guest Speaker – Trevor Seppings
Topic: Pangarinda Botanic Garden, South
Australia.



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 Melton Business Excellence Awards

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly
on the 3rd Monday 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 & 4th Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

VALE: Cassandra Broughton.



It is with sadness that we have to tell you the news that Cassandra passed away on Friday 5 February 2016.

Cassandra was a founding member of the Friends, she served on the FMBG Executive Committee for a couple of years and was passionate about the environment and the Melton community.

The photo is of Cassandra with Friends at a Melton Botanic Garden Clean-up Day in Aug 2009 (Cassandra is in the red coat and wearing black scarf standing next to Cr. Sophie Ramsey).

Eucalypts of the Melton Botanic Garden - Eucalyptus Arboretum

Many thanks to Barb and David Pye and Wendy Johnson in producing the new booklet Eucalypts of the Melton Botanic Garden - Eucalyptus Arboretum.

If you would like to view the booklet online it is available as a 3MB download on the fMBG website

Enjoy looking at the stunning photographs of the eucalypts in the garden. Hopefully with the included maps you will now be able to locate them.

[EucalyptsOfThe MBG Eucalyptus Arboretum Dec2015_web_v1_opt.pdf;](#)

Generous Donation of Plants from the Royal Botanic Garden of Victoria

The Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Victoria in Melbourne have donated plants and cuttings for the MBG Southern African Garden.

Many thanks to RBGV for their generous donation which will help boost our plant display in the Southern African Garden!



Various Aloes, Clivias and some cuttings



Aloe rupestris or Bottlebrush Aloe

If you have any Strelitzia reginae or Bird of Paradise to donate they would be much appreciated for the Southern African Garden

Fan Aloe (Kumara plicatilis)

The flower on this Fan Aloe (Kumara plicatilis) in the Southern African garden is growing fast and will be in flower when you read this newsletter!



FMBG Nursery in the Melton Leader Well done Nursery Team.

04 NEWS

MELTON



Norma Forte, John Bentley and Jean Partridge at the nursery.

Picture: KYLIE ELSE

Nursery extends hours

MELTON Botanic Garden's volunteer nursery has extended its opening hours to ensure green thumbs have what they need for autumn planting.

Operated by a team of 10 volunteers, the nursery opened for short periods from late 2014, but a bumper year last year has seen demand for the service grow.

And with all the money raised from sales at the nursery going back into the Melton Botanic Garden,

gardeners are being urged to shop local. Nursery manager Margaret Cook said the plants sold at the nursery were all suited to growing in the region.

"The plants sold are mainly Australian native plant species and our customers appreciate buying plants which do not require constant watering in order to thrive," Ms Cook said.

She said many of the plants were also grown in the Melton Botanic Garden. She said more volunteers

to help run the nursery were welcome. "Volunteers propagate plant cuttings, pot plants into larger pots, water the pots, label the plants, stake and trim the plants in pots, and some volunteers conduct sales."

The nursery, on the corner of Tullidge and Williams streets is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 10am to 1pm.

Details: fmbg.org.au, friend them on Facebook or email plants@fmbg.org.au

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

Woodlea Explorer: YouTube video featuring Melton Botanic Garden (as well as other local features)

Woodlea Explorer - Discovering Local Gems with new residents on a Melton Botanic Garden tour is 2 minutes 25 seconds into the video clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzD0UzOS7pU;>

MBG Clean-Up Day

14 February

Some tyres and wheels were dumped in the garden otherwise it was mainly dropped or blown in rubbish. Not as our last Clean UP Day was in October 2015.



Southern African Garden

Kei Apple (*Dovyalis caffra*)

Dovyalis caffra is a small to medium-sized tree, native to southern Africa. Its distribution extends from the Kei River in the south, from which the common name derives, northwards along the eastern side of the continent to Tanzania. The ripe fruits are tasty, reminiscent of a small apple. Can be used to make jams and preservatives. The Kei Apple is rare in Victoria



Jill Bentley and Brad Crème (BBG Curator) in front of the Kei Apple



100 year old Kei Apple planted in the late 19th Century which has National Trusting listing

A Kei Apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) has been donated to the Melton Botanic Garden by Bendigo Botanic Gardens. We were also given other cuttings from various plants for the Southern African Garden. Brad Crème the Curator gave us a tour of the gardens. We also tasted some of the ripe fruits. Watch out though as the tree has 10cm long thorns and you can end up with yellow hands from the fruit.

What a great link has been forged between the BBG and the MBG.

Map of the Melton Botanic Garden



Many thanks to Sign Perfection in Melton who have printed and donated a large map of the Melton Botanic Garden to the Friends. We will use this at our promotional events. It will be the centrepiece of the FMBG display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (16-20 March). We have 8 metres of wall space for our display this year.

Clean Up Australia Day 6 March

Melton Botanic Garden.

Well done everyone!



New entrance sign for the plant nursery and depot



Sustainable Living Festival Garden Tour



Kev and Jill the welcoming reception



John and Alan's tour group

Southern African Garden

The Safaris planted the final *Calodendrum capense* or Cape Chestnut Tree in the Southern African Garden. These will one day form a spectacular row of trees along Lakewood Boulevard.



Jill showing visitors plants in the Sensory Garden

Bird Survey at Botanic Garden

Geraldine says:

Just done this week's survey of the Botanic Garden and saw a White-necked Heron at the North Pond near the Depot. Didn't get any photos- flew off before I recognised what I was seeing. There were lots of cormorants- 4 Little Pied, 1 Little Black and 1 Great Cormorant. Have there been fish introduced into the lake? Lovely morning for a walk, cool, no wind.

THE BOTANIC GARDENER

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

Bats next to Botanic Garden

A colony of microbats has been discovered by Lyn Holdsworth in this hollow branch about 100 metres from Melton Botanic Garden. About 60 bats flew out when disturbed. The volume of mosquitoes and other insect eaten by these bats would be enormous! The bats here would probably hawk for insects among the trees along Toolern Creek. They would no doubt use the nearby Botanic Garden Lake for water as it is a little more than a 100 metres from the lake.



Consensus of opinion identifies them tentatively as Chocolate Wattled Bats.

Richard Akers of Melbourne Water suggests: *'Looks like they may be Chocolate Wattle Bats. Lightening up the picture they seem to have pug noses and conspicuous flaps of the inner ear. I'm far from an expert, so they could also be Little Forest Bats or another species. I've found a dead Chocolate Wattle Bat a few years ago further downstream on Toolern Creek, at the walking track along the Strathtulloh Woodland. Great to have more evidence of how important this creek is for wildlife, particularly older trees'*

*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

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

Membership

Membership fees are due by 30 June 2016

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 now Denmark. 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 total of financial memberships 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

FMBG Corporate Members 2015/16

Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

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Everite Garden Supplies

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Melton Home Timber and Hardware

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Phone: (03) 9743 5033
Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

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Phone: (03) 9743 5201
Manager: Peter Earl

Melton Toyota

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