

FMBG Newsletter No.49 July 2021

Here are some recent updates about the Friends and happenings in the garden.



**Friends of the
Melton Botanic Garden Inc.**

Garden Works

1. Eastern Australian Dryland Garden

The development of this garden was a major activity for the MBG Working for Victoria Team. The paths, beds, and mulching have been completed. Planting has commenced. Sourcing plants will continue over a couple of years. If you are interested in helping by working in or curating this garden, please contact John Bentley. We may have to create an East Enders Group (though the garden is on the West Side of the MBG).

May 2020



June 2021



2. Ryans Creek and North Pond



There has been significant erosion in the last couple of years between Ryans Creek and the North Pond due to increased storm water with all the development activity north of High Street resulting in increased flows when it rains along Ryans Creek. We have worked with council on the issue and council have constructed an overflow and crossover in the first week of July to help alleviate the erosion. The path will be extended from the crossover to the new industrial area. The Creekers have been planting along “The Avenue” in preparation for the path to the industrial estate.

3. Pollinators Project

Visitors to the nursery or depot may have noticed some apple crates spring up in the south east corner of the car park recently. This is the result of a 2-year project organised by Robin Stewart, the Pollinators Project Manager. Rob is a member of Rotary. Rotary has a world-wide initiative called Rotarians 4 Bees (<https://rotariansforbees.org/>). Rob approached the FMBG Committee about creating a pollinator project in the Melton Botanic Garden. After two years of planning, all suddenly fell into place with funding and much of the installation being done by the Working for Victoria Team plus a generous donation by Bunnings East Melton in providing the pavers to lift the crates off the ground. The crates are set up as wicking beds with overflow pipes going into the spoon drain. There are three beds of three crates containing: 1) native plants, 2) the middle crates have indigenous plants (local Melton plants), and 3) the east bed with exotic plants (a Southern African crate, Californian, Central and South American crate and a Mediterranean region crate). Temporary signage has been placed on the crates. We are creating new signage to educate on pollinators.

The Australian Integrated Fijian Association of Victoria are also partnering with FMBG on the project. They have applied for a Council Partnership Grant to help support the project and related activities.

We hope to run education activities at the beds and participate in Australian Pollinator Week 2021, 6-14 November (<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/>).

Interested in this project? Please contact Rob Stewart (robin.stewart@fmbg.org.au).



4. Industrial Estate Wetland

The new wetland to trap and treat storm water before it enters the lake is nearly complete. All the civil engineering works have been done. The next step will be planting. Eventually this wetland will become part of the Melton Botanic Garden. It should provide another good habitat for birds.

Wetland construction July 2020



Training

FMBG has grant funds for first aid training and chemical use training (mixing and using herbicides). Thanks to the 7 volunteers who since the start of 2020 have refreshed their first-aid or undertaken the course for the first or after a long time.

First Aid Courses – we have grant funds remaining for 4 people to attend courses but should be able to fund more if required. Many volunteers have completed their course at the Melton South Community Centre. The next “Provide First Aid” courses (HLTAID003) are on Saturdays 9am-4pm, 31 July or 28 August or 18 September. There is a prior online learning component, taking about 12 to 20 hours depending on prior experience and then you attend one of the Saturdays for the practical training and assessment. Please contact John Bentley if interested.

Chemical Accreditation Course AFQ3 – we have grant funds for 3 people to attend courses. You need to be a regular volunteer and be prepared to mix glyphosate and oversee others spraying.

For course details and where you can attend see:

<https://www.chemcert.com.au/courses/aqf-3-chemical-accreditation>

Sometimes a course is held in Bacchus Marsh.

Please contact John Bentley if interested.

Working for Victoria Team

The team finished during June. The Melton Botanic Garden, nursery and depot have greatly benefitted from their work and funding contribution since they started in November 2020. We thank the team for their contribution and wish them all the best. A number have returned to their previous employment or found new employment. The team have donated a seat to the garden. It will be installed hopefully in August as we are awaiting delivery.

Memberships

Many thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2021/22. A special welcome to all our recent new members. Congrats to all, as at 30 June 2021 we had 335 members (individuals, corporate and associates). Could we make it 400 by 30 June 2022? You can help by encouraging friends and family to join.

If you have not received a membership renewal email then it means all is good with your financial membership. If you have not renewed your membership, it is now overdue and you will receive a final reminder by the end of July.

June Financials

June Revenue: \$6,149.80

June Expenditure: \$10,677.25

2020/21 Financial Year FMBG Operating Profit: \$14,665 – we worked hard during the year to limit expenses and had good sales through the nursery plus two Bunnings Sausage Sizzles helped raise additional funds. We received over \$2,100 in donations.

Volunteering

You don't have to volunteer only in the garden or nursery, we also have administration and office tasks. If you have office skills and would like to use them at the depot helping with administrative tasks please let us know.

We also need people who would like to take guided tours.

Volunteer information and the volunteer handbook at: <https://fmbg.org.au/volunteer.htm>



Depot and Nursery Car Park

We have received a number of reports in recent weeks about some drivers speeding into the car park and driving too fast for a shared area. The speed in the car park is 5 kph. It is a shared zone. There are pedestrians, cars and trucks all using the area, so please exercise care and patience. There is also a parking area reserved for nursery customers from the main gate to the power pole stay (see yellow cover and wire in photo) during nursery open times.

Shared zone 5 kph



Area reserved for nursery customer car parking



Poetry

Lastly a poem from my cousin in the UK who is an FMBG member.

The poem was originally written for his neighbours who were avid gardeners. It was originally titled Tom and Doreen's Rose. Just for us he has changed the title to the FMBG Rose.

"If you have faith in what you sow the quite unthinkable may grow"

Their bushy rose was planted
In a thriving hawthorn hedge
And tended with a passion
That's reserved for pristine veg.

The rose became established
Over many fruitful years
And every fleeting summer
Its perfection reappears.

Their rose will always flower
In the borders of my mind
And with its lasting fragrance
Cause life's tensions to unwind.

It really was amazing
How such beauty could prevail
In bouts of stormy weather
That all gardeners bewail.

This rose is a reminder
Of a friendship as it grows
In life's enduring garden
Where the seeds of Truth repose.

And when its flowers open
In abundance I can tell
That gardening for pleasure
Will reward the planter well.

Iaian W. Wade (Edited 07/07/2021)

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