



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

President's Annual Report July 2010 – June 2011

A review of the year
Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden



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Major achievements

- “*Leaders in Sustainability*” award
- Grants
- Promotion and fundraising
- Revised Strategic Plan (2011-2013)
 - Thanks to Dave Peters for his work on the plan
- Eucalyptus Arboretum planting
- Rehabilitation of Ryans Creek



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Leaders in Sustainability Award

- Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards
- April 2011



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

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Other Highlights



- “Melton Botanic Garden”
 - Name Gazetted in February 2011
- MBG Master Plan adopted by MSC
 - Dec 2010
- MSC Finalists at the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainability Awards
 - Sydney 2011
 - FMBG represented by John and Jill Bentley
- Plenty of rain since November 2010
 - Flooding and damage to paths
- Commenced CaLM Program



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FMBG Strengths



- Continued strong membership
 - 141 in 2010/11 and 148 in 2009/10 financial members
 - 70 friends on Facebook
- Continued our strong relationship with MSC
- Developing the FMBG brand and a good reputation as a group
- Solid financial position – see Treasurer’s Annual Report
- Links with other groups and organisations
 - Western Water, Melbourne Water, PPWCA, DSE, V4WP, APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh and other Melton groups
- Members get involved – fundraising, GTGD
- Committed active group and team based
 - Social dinners now regular activity
 - Grow the Garden Days
 - Clean Up Days and Waterwatch are embedded activities
- Range of skills and continual improvement
 - Members attending skills training and information seminars

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Promotion & Fundraising



- Melton
 - Djerriwarrh Festival, Diggers Rest Country Fair, Platypus Festival, Bunnings Spring Launch, Woodgrove, Lakeside.
- Regional
 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show 2011 and an FMBG hanging basket entered in the competition
 - Bacchus Marsh – APS Plant Sale
- Attendance at various functions and events
- FMBG DVD launched in April
- FMBG on 3RRR “Dirty Deeds” show
- These activities help get the Melton Botanic Garden message out there
 - Thanks to everyone who has participated in promotions and fundraising



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Presentations to Groups



- Bacchus Marsh Garden Club – John & Jill
- Broadmeadows & District Garden Club - John & Jill
- Bulla Garden Club – John, Jill and Allan
- Footscray Garden Club – Jill & John
- Sunbury Garden Club – Jill & Allan
- Melton Ladies Probus Club - Jill
- Men’s Probus Club of Melton – Jill & Lyn Nardella
- Melton U3A – Jill




Probus President Ron Templeton with Jill Bentley & Lyn Nardella

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Fundraising

- Bunnings BBQs
 - September
 - January
 - May
- Plant sales
- Raffles



Grants

- MSC
 - Completed Ryans Creek Tree Signage \$1,000 MSC + \$400 from FMBG
 - thanks to Alan Partridge and others
- Melbourne Water ~\$20,000
 - Thanks to Jill Bentley and Margaret Peters
- Dahl Trust - \$15,000
- Vision for Werribee Plains ~\$132,000
 - Eucalyptus Arboretum funding project March 2011 to October 2012
- Support from Melton Lions with a \$500 donation for plants for the National Green Jobs Corp




Leading FMBG

- 2010 AGM - Committee
 - President: John Bentley
 - Vice-President: Alan Partridge
 - Treasurer: Margaret Peters
 - Secretary: Janet Dyke
 - Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge
 - Executive members: Jill Bentley, Lyn Nardella and Peter Sells
- Other FMBG Positions
 - Safety Officer: John Bentley
 - Public Officer: Leo Johnson
 - Returning Officer: Don Nardella



FMBG Meeting Attendances

Month	10/11	09/10	08/09		10/11	09/10	08/09
July	21	19	21	Average	27	22	27
August	26	20	28	Max	54	33	56
*September	54	33	14	Min	10	17	12
October	21	17	17	Attendances are up for the year and match 2009 level.			
November	19	21	22				
December	33	30	38				
January	-	-	-				
February	44	25	56				
March	19	19	16				
April	21	18	26				
May	10	17	21				
June	31	19	40	*John Patrick Presentation			

Meeting Highlights

- Guest speaker or activity each month
 - John Arnott, John Patrick, Richard Allen, Barb Pye, Lindy Lumsden, Richard Barley
- 1st Photo Competition



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Clean-up Day & Waterwatch Attendances

Month	10/11	09/10	08/09
August	15	19	-
October	12	24	18
December	-	9	-
February	14*	15	12
March*	18	15	17
April	11	13	-
June	9	10	14

*Clean Up Australia Day *Plus 4 scouts



Frog Census

	10/11	09/10	08/09
Average	13	15	15
Maximum	18	24	18
Minimum	9	9	12



Grow the Garden Day Attendances

	10/11	09/10	08/09
Average	10	11	11
Maximum	16	19	18
Minimum	6	6	7
Days	21	18	15

Plus:
 - Cubs and Scouts: 10 (Aug) / 4 (Feb)
 - Conservation Volunteers Australia: 5 (July)



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Field Trips

- October 2010
 - Cranbourne – Australia Garden
- March 2011
 - Regional Tour – Bulla Alistair Clark Memorial Rose Garden, Sunbury Market, Gisborne Nursery, Darley Gardens



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Eucalyptus Arboretum



- Project is a partnership between the Australian Plants Society Melton & Bacchus Marsh Group, Melton Shire Council, and FMBG. With support from WesternWater and CVGT.
- David Pye has been excellent as the Project Manager
- Regular meetings of the Working Party
- Funding from Dhal Trust and Vision for Werribee Plains. Contributions in-kind from Western Water and MSC.
- Rocks from Anthonys Cutting Re-alignment
- CVGT Work Experience Team – Andrew Traczynski Team Leader



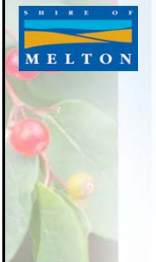
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Eucalyptus Arboretum Planting

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Melton Shire Council and FMBG



- Brett Luxford has continued as the FMBG Liaison and also is on the Eucalyptus Arboretum Working Party Meetings
- Mayor Justin Mammarella – visited MBG
- MSC agreed to develop Memorandum of Understanding with FMBG
- Broden Borg, Sophie Ramsay, and Bob Turner for their support of FMBG
- Budget submission for funding of toilet and access fencing
 - Result was inclusion of \$132,000 for toilet facilities in the 2011/2012 budget

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Visitors to the MBG







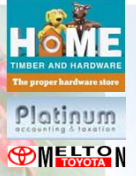
- Kevin Walsh – Bendigo Botanic Gardens
- Gayle Tierney – MLC
- Bill Brown & Allison Martland - Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association
- MSC Mayor Justin Mammarella



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FMBG Corporate Members





- Melton Home Timber and Hardware
- Melton Produce
- Melton Toyota
- Platinum Accounting & Taxation
- Satellite City Furniture
- SOV Consulting
- Western Land Services



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Special Thanks to:

- Everyone on the executive
 - Without this dedicated group we would have difficulty being successful
- Everyone involved in fundraising, publicity, clean-ups, weeding and planting activities
- Alan P and Janet for preparing and organising clean up days
- Alan Partridge for taking the attendance at all activities, bus bookings and organising activities and for doing a great job as Vice-President
- David and Barb Pye for their contribution to the Eucalyptus Arboretum Project
- Don Nardella and his staff for photocopying
- Lynette R for social dinners, corporate memberships and prizes
- Our corporate members and businesses that have donated prizes
- Margaret P for her work with Ryans Creek and CaLM
- Jean Partridge as the FMBG librarian
- Everyone for helping to make 2010/2011 another successful year





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Finally, we need to:

- Focus on the vision
 - See and envisage the long term
- Celebrate along the way what we are achieving
- Promote the message
- Continue your support
 - In whatever way you are able to contribute

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