

# FMBG Newsletter



## Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens, Inc.

Nov/Dec 2007

Share the Dream

### What's On....

**Dec**  
End-of-year BBQ

**February**  
**10th** Sunday  
10am Clean Up  
Day at Botanic  
Garden Site - Town  
Centre Park (TCP)  
meet at Pergola

**13th** Wed 7pm  
Walk and BBQ at  
Botanic Garden  
Site

**March**  
**2nd** Sunday 10am  
Keep Australia  
Beautiful – Clean-  
Up Day Town  
Centre Park -  
Botanic Garden Site

**12th** Wed 7.30pm  
Meeting: Discover  
an International  
Botanic Garden

**16th** Mar  
Eastside Live  
Market, Caroline  
Springs 10-4pm

**28th** Friday  
evening

FMBG Social Dinner  
- Contact Lynette R

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### From the President ...

Exciting things will be happening with the Melton Botanic Garden in 2008. Melton Shire Council (MSC) will complete the landscape design brief and engage a landscape designer for the Melton Botanic Garden. We have commenced the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between FMBG and MSC so that we have clear guideline about responsibilities in the Melton Botanic Gardens. We are awaiting the outcome of our MSC strengthening grant submission to develop a new logo design and production of associate publication material.

In October 2007 we received a Commonwealth Water Grant of \$5200 to help our activities in cleaning and maintaining Town Centre Park and the section of Ryans Creek within the Park. We will also monitor water quality. Please keep an eye out for the notices about the workshops and clean-up days.

We have released a calendar for 2008 and confirmed most speakers. Email me or see the website if you do not have a copy.

We have had a number of very successful and enjoyable field trips and events this year. Please see the articles in this newsletter on some events that happened over the last few months. Thanks to all those that made each of these a success.

A thankyou to Lynette Rehling for fundraising and approaching businesses to donate prizes for raffles and of course a huge thankyou to each business that donated prizes (Golden Fleece, Melton Produce, Melton Electrics, Paint Place, Ferguson Plarre, Guardian Chemist, FoodWorks, Jills' Hairdressing Salon, Bunnings, Pretty Essentials, Office Supplies, FlowerPower) – Well done Lynette and all the fundraising helpers. You can help by selling Chocolate Frogs, it's easy just contact Lynette for a box (or two).

I hope you like the newsletter and I would encourage you to contribute articles and profiles for 2008 issues.

I hope to see you at the end-of-year BBQ.

Have a very happy Christmas, New Year and enjoy the holidays, John.

### Bunnings Spring Launch *by Jill Bentley*

On the 13th of October some intrepid members of FMBG set off once again to promote a Botanic Garden to the community of Melton. This time we were at Bunnings for their Spring Launch along with the Melton and Bacchus Marsh Garden groups, thanks to Margaret's initiative. It was a successful day handing out information to people, signing up one corporate and 5 other members and promoting our November meeting with Frances Overmars. We also had good support and contact with the staff at Bunnings and other stall holders.

The volunteers received a pleasant surprise when the Bunnings staff informed us that morning tea was provided. So off we went two by two and the first two came back with stories of doughnuts, cakes and biscuits, we didn't have to worry about lunch. Thankyou to all who supported the day it was both successful and fun.



## Colac Botanic Garden Trip- 21 October 2007 *by Alan Partridge*

A small group of nine of our members travelled to Colac by Melton Community bus for a tour of their botanic garden. We were met by Helen from the Friends of the Colac Botanic Garden and taken on a most interesting and informative walk around the gardens.

The Colac Botanic Garden is over a century old with many of the trees over 100 years. There are a number of these large feature trees on the heritage register, mainly exotic such as oaks and elm but some native to Australia like the marri eucalypt and bunya pine. The garden is very well maintained by the local council and has a full time gardener and apprentice.



The general layout of the garden is open park land with extensive views through it. There are feature beds for camellias and rhododendrons, herb type plants, rose beds and a rose arch covered pathway. The site of the garden is on an elevated area on the southern side of Lake Colac with extensive views over the lake. They also have a nice café just inside the main entrance with great views of both the garden and Lake Colac. The café was originally a homestead.

A recent addition to the garden is a planted area of indigenous cool rain forest type plants from the Otway Ranges area with a wide variety from small grasses and ferns to sapling Eucalyptus Regnans (the great Victorian mountain ash). This area is actually just outside the eastern boundary of the fenced botanic garden area.

Colac is a very fortunate area in regard to water with only very low level restrictions on watering which was obvious from the beautiful gardens and lush lawns seen in the vicinity of the botanic garden. It also has a quite reliable rainfall of 700 mm although this has been down considerably in recent times.

We enjoyed our picnic lunch in a pleasant little area outside the botanic garden near the indigenous garden before departing for home.

The trip home was through Beeac, Cressy, Rokewood and Ballarat as a change to the way down through Geelong and Winchelsea. It was interesting to see a lot of different country on what is our longest field trip to a botanic garden to date.

## Clean-Up Days *by Tuschan Fernando*

The Clean-Up Day is a core function of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden group. In addition to all its other activities the Clean-Up Day offers members the opportunity to let their actions do the talking and demonstrate to both the community and the Melton Shire Council that FMBG has a serious commitment to the establishment of the Botanic Garden.



The Clean-Up Day has been a regular event in the calendar of FMBG in the last two years. Over this period a significant improvement in the aesthetics of the area designated for the Botanic Gardens has been accomplished with much of the rubbish littering this extensive area having been removed.

One such occasion was on the 10th October 2007 when a group of about 10 to 12 members participated in clearing unwanted waste such as plastics, bottles, paper, tyres etc. from the northern end of Ryan's Creek.

The approximately two and a half hours spent gives members the satisfaction of making a significant contribution to their community as well as the opportunity to combine their camaraderie and mutual interest with some light physical activity. Snacks, soft drinks and the occasional celebration of a member's birthday or special event provide the backdrop to completing a most enjoyable morning activity.

## Djerriwarrh Festival



We had a very successful Djerriwarrh Festival. Overall we collected \$612. less expenses we raised over \$540 at the stall which is indeed a splendid effort.

A big thankyou to Margaret, Dave, Jill, Lynette, Tushan, Norma, Alan, Janet, Denise, Lyn and Don for organising and/or helping on the stall.

Thanks to all those who propagated and/or donated plants for sales - I was staggered to see more than a gazebo full of plants.

Thankyou to Tony, Robert and Leanne Dyke for helping with picking up and dropping off our equipment for the walk and the stall.



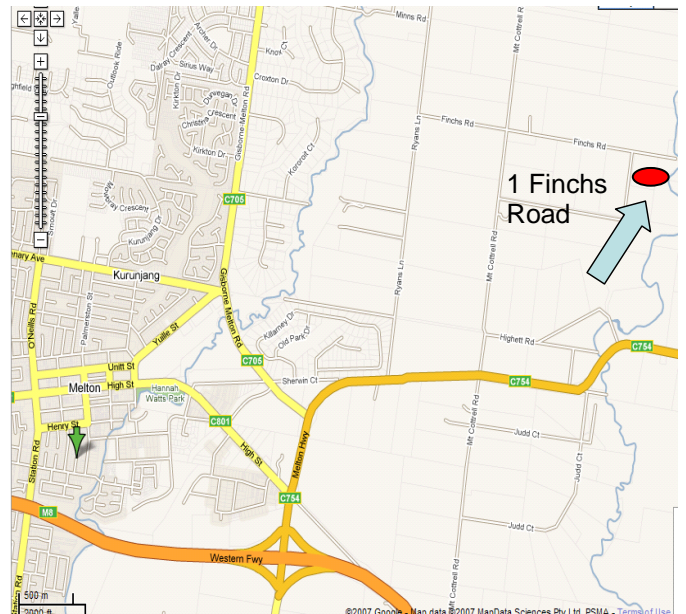
Finally a thankyou to all those walked in the parade - Lynette, Janet D, Janet (Lynette's friend), Janice, Nikki, Caleb, Correy, Tushan, Alan, and Dave.

## End-of-Year Function

Wed. 12th December 6.30pm at Karen and Con Nikakis' Property  
1 Finchs Road Melton (at the very end of Finchs Road on Kororoit Creek – see map)

BYO – meat, drinks, utensils, chairs  
Please contact Jill (9743 3819) or Margaret (5367 3328) to organise bringing a salad or dessert

Raffle \$1/ticket or 7/\$5



## Propagate, Propagate, Propagate!

In 2008 we have a number of events where we will be selling plants. Selling plants has been a big success in 2007 thanks to efforts of Margaret Peters co-ordinating this activity and all those who propagated plants.

We firstly need plants for Eastside Live in March and then ongoing for the other events. So please propagate, propagate, propagate – Geraniums, succulents and anything else (that is not a weed!)



If you need pots or advice on what to propagate please call Margaret Peters on 5367 3328.

## Fundraising

Don't forget to return money for Freddo Frog sales.

Contact Lynette Rehling (9747 9034) if you need a box to sell.

### FMBG Executive Committee

(Exec meetings are held monthly)

**President:** *John Bentley (9743 3819)*  
**Vice-President:** *Dave Peters*  
**Secretary:** *Janet Dyke (9743 2733)*  
**Treasurer:** *Margaret Peters*  
**Assistant Secretary:** *Alan Partridge*  
**Committee Members:** *Jill Bentley, Tuschan Fernando*  
**Safety Officer:** *Dave Peters*  
**Public Officer:** *Leo Johnson*

### FMBG Contact Details

**Tel:** 03 9743 2733  
**Fax:** 03 9743 1634  
**Address:** P.O. Box 2381, Melton South 3338  
**Website:** [www.fmbg.org.au](http://www.fmbg.org.au)  
**Email:** [botanicfriends@fmbg.org.au](mailto:botanicfriends@fmbg.org.au)

ABN: 53715421623

Inc No.: A00450772