

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Newsletter

November / December 2009



Photo: Billabong Melton Botanic Garden

What's on in November / December:

Unfortunately by the time you get this November will be over – we had some great activities so read about them in this newsletter

9th December Wednesday 6.30pm End of Year Function

Alan and Jean Partridge's at 3 Victor Court.

21st December Monday 10am-8pm Bunnings BBQ

All help appreciated to make this our last big fundraiser for the year.

22nd December Tuesday 7pm Frog Census

Meet Rotundas – Melton Botanic Garden
Bring a recorder if you have one. Contact Janet Dyke for information 9743 2733

What's on in January/February 2010

17th January Sunday 10am to about 4pm
Executive Committee Planning Day – Strategic Planning for FMBG in 2010 and beyond
Allan & Bev Benson's place

10th February 6.30pm Meeting – Logo Launch and Explore the Garden. Celebrate with a BBQ at the Melton Botanic Garden

Meet rotundas – Contact Margaret 5367 3328

11th Thursday and 28th Sunday February 10am - noon Grow the Garden

Ryans 'Creek – Melton Botanic Garden

14th February Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch at Melton Botanic Garden

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Monthly meetings are usually held at the DJ Cunningham Centre in Exford Rd, Melton South (Melways 342 K3) at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday night of each month.

There is parking, easy access, good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

End of Year Function

Wednesday 9th December 6.30pm
Alan & Jean Partridges
3 Victor Court

BYO BBQ, utensils, chairs etc
Please bring a salad or dessert

Buy some raffle tickets as there are a good number of great prizes in the raffle

Information:

Please contact John or Jill Bentley 97433819

Special General Meeting 11th November

The Special General Meeting unanimously passed all proposed amendments.

The amend constitution is being sent to Consumer Affairs for approval.

Thanks to Jill, Leo, Allan and Janet for their help and work in making the changes.

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 19th January at 7.30pm – meeting at Bentley's place.

Best wishes for the holiday season
Have a happy Christmas and a very merry New Year!

FMBG at the Djerriwarrh Festival Parade and Street Stall



Vox Bandicoot – and the winner is? - drawing the raffle winners



*FMBG parade participants – note gum boots
We marched along to “if it weren't for your gumboots where would you be”*



FMBG marquees – information and plant sales

A good fun day and we raised \$557.50 for FMBG.

Website of the month

This month take a look at the website of Gardening Australia:

www.abc.net.au/gardening

Watch the short video on Clarence Slockee the new 2010 from Guest Presenter. He is an expert on indigenous food which should help inform FMBG on the planned Melton Botanic Garden Bushfoods and Indigenous People's Garden.

There is also a short video on the Friends of Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanic Garden hosted by Sophie Thomson (07/11/2009).

November Meeting - Frogs of Melton

Daryl Akers gave a great talk on frogs of Melton. Good photos and we also heard him loud and clear as he was the first presenter to use our new PA system (which we purchased from an MSC community grant). The wireless headset microphone left his hands free to point out and show things. Well done Daryl.



Daryl showing a Pobblebonk on the slide



Daryl with small frog garden and books

Grow the Garden Days

The Grow the Garden Days have been a great success this year. Unfortunately we had to cancel the GTGD on 22nd November due to rain and flooding.

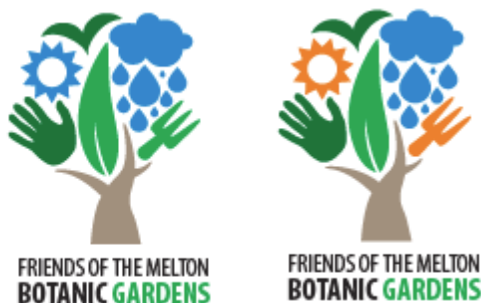
Why not join us at the next Grow the Garden Days in February 2010 – 10am-noon 2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday every month.

FMBG Logo

We are working with Harmer Creative in Ballarat on the design of a new stylised logo.

If all goes well this will be ready by the end of the year then we can have a launch of the logo in early 2010.

Here is first concept of the logo to capture up our ideas:



The logo as a whole represents a river red gum and the elements within it depict the interactions between the environment, plants, fauna and people – sun, rain, gum leaf, bird, hand and fork (people activity). We wanted something that was modern and captured the focus of FMBG.

The next logo iteration should be out the first week of December.

If you have any feedback on the logo please contact John Bentley (president@fmbg.org.au or 9743 3819)

FMBG Library

We have books, DVDs and magazines in the library. Take a look at the library at the regular monthly meetings.

Recent purchases: Flora of Melbourne and Weeds of the South-East, Eremophilas, Seed collection DVD, seed collection and propagation books.

The difference between a pelargonium and a geranium

Recently FMBG were asked about the difference at the Gardening Australia Expo and by members at the October meeting. Here is an explanation.

While the genera Geranium and Pelargonium are related, both being members of the family Geraniaceae, they are quite distinct. True geraniums, also known as cranesbills, referring to the shape of the fruit, for the most part have symmetrical flowers with ten fertile stamens. Most Pelargonium have bilaterally symmetrical flowers with up to seven of the ten stamens fertile. True Geraniums have a different seed dispersal technique than Pelargoniums. Geraniums fling their seeds away while Pelargonium seeds float away on the breeze and usually have a 'feathered' end that Geraniums don't have. Of course, you can only see this when they are producing seeds.

Pelargoniums are tender perennials and occur naturally almost entirely within South Africa. Leaves of true geraniums are usually deeply divided and cut while those of most groups of pelargoniums are not. Pelargoniums also have rather thick, succulent stems, originating as they do from areas where they have to withstand summer drought, whereas geraniums have the appearance of 'normal' herbaceous perennial plants, a mounding form of many many slender stems arising from a central core, and fibrous roots.

Plants sold at garden centres that are labelled "Ivy Geranium", "Scented Geranium" and "Zonal Geranium" are actually three different species of pelargonium. Some names that true geraniums are commonly known by are "Hardy Geranium", "Geranium" and "Cranes Bill".

Source:
faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/geranium/2002075804001127.html

Geelong Botanic Gardens contains an Ornamental Plant Conservation Association of Australia collection of Pelargonium.

In Australia Geraniaceae has about 30 species in three genera, Pelargonium, Geranium and Erodium. Within the Melton area Pelargonium australe (Austral Stork's Bill) and Pelargonium rodneyanum (Magenta Storksbill) can be found. Both are widespread in temperate areas of Australia.

Birds of the Melton Botanic Garden

Below are sightings recorded by Daryl Akers over time up to September 2009

- 1 Australasian Magpie
- 2 Australian Hobby
- 3 Australian Reed-Warbler
- 4 Black Swan
- 5 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
- 6 Black-fronted Dotterel
- 7 Chestnut Teal
- 8 Common Myna
- 9 Crested Pigeon
- 10 Darter
- 11 Domestic Goose
- 12 Dusky Moorhen
- 13 Eastern Rosella
- 14 Eurasian Blackbird
- 15 Eurasian Coot
- 16 European Starling
- 17 Galah
- 18 Golden-headed Cisticola
- 19 Great (Black) Cormorant
- 20 Hoary-headed Grebe
- 21 House Sparrow
- 22 Latham's Snipe
- 23 Little Corella
- 24 Little Raven
- 25 Long-billed Corella
- 26 Magpie-lark
- 27 Mallard
- 28 Masked Lapwing
- 29 Musk Lorikeet
- 30 New Holland Honeyeater
- 31 Pacific Black Duck
- 32 Pied Cormorant
- 33 Purple Swamphen
- 34 Purple-crowned Lorikeet
- 35 Rainbow Lorikeet
- 36 Red Wattlebird
- 37 Red-rumped Parrot
- 38 Rock Pigeon
- 39 Royal Spoonbill
- 40 Sacred Kingfisher
- 41 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
- 42 Spotted Dove
- 43 Straw-necked Ibis
- 44 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- 45 Welcome Swallow
- 46 White-faced Heron
- 47 White-necked (Pacific) Heron
- 48 White-plumed Honeyeater
- 49 White-winged Triller
- 50 Willie-wagtail

- 51 Wood Duck
- 52 Yellow-billed Spoonbill
- 53 Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Over summer we hope this list might encourage you to take a walk and watch some birds in the Melton Botanic Garden. See what you can tick off.

Don't forget your camera!

October meeting - What's flowering in October?

We had a number of members show and tell what was flowering in their garden.

Peter brought some cacti and succulents,



Margaret displayed a large array of rose flowers and showed us how to "smell the roses", Verna shared her grapefruits, Alan had his natives and there was lots more.



October

October Field Trip

A bunch of members on a very cold October Sunday headed off to the Organ Pipes and Woodland Historic Park. We ended up taking our own cars as the Melton Community Bus had a flat battery. A very enjoyable day.



Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference 2010

Hosted by Friends of Inland Botanic Gardens Mildura
May 21st-23rd

Supported by the Shire of Wentworth Council and the Mildura Rural City Council.

Theme- Secrets of the Mallee.

Friends of the AIBG are now deep in the planning phase of a conference of broad interest to delegates.

Program includes short presentations of interesting and innovative developments in various gardens.

Registration forms and details will be available on the website soon.

Speakers will include Dr Gary Crilley, Senior Lecturer, Division of Business, School of Management, University of SA is a presenter and is responsible for the research on the benefits for the "over 50's" of volunteering in botanic gardens.

Brief Outline of Program:

Fri.21st May Pre -conference tour in local area (if numbers sufficient)

6.00pm Civic Reception, Alfred Deakin Centre

Sat.22nd May 8.30am Saturday Registration, morning sessions, afternoon discussions and AIB Gardens tours

Sun.23rd May 8.15 Breakfast at AIB Gardens, Early birds walk, sessions, AGM, Optional afternoon river trip

Mon.24th May Post Conference tour to places of environmental interest along the Murray River

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/

FMBG are hoping to give a presentation at the conference. We will have many Australian dryland plants in the Melton Botanic Garden.

If you are interested in attending please let us know. We may look getting at accommodation for a group.

Alex Smart President of the Association of Friends of Botanic Garden will speak at our April 2010 meeting.

Platypus Festival and Spring Launch

Thanks to Margaret for organising the FMBG marquee at the Platypus Festival.

Thanks also to Lynette Rehling, Elaine Neely, Verna Reed, and William Blinkhorn who helped at the Spring Launch.

These were great opportunities to promote the Melton Botanic Garden and raise some funds for FMBG.

Special thanks to those who donated prizes for the raffle.

Native Seed Collection Workshops

A number of FMBG members attended The Port Philip & Westernport CMA Community Native Seed Collection Workshops in Melton and Bacchus Marsh.

So we now have a number of members trained up as native seed collectors for our Ryans Creek revegetation project and other indigenous areas of the MBG.



Allan and Jill inspecting plants propagated from collected seed
FMBG have purchased some books on seed collection – please have a look in the FMBG library.

Ryans Creek Revegetation

Native ranunculus below at Ryans Creek in the Melton Botanic Garden – self seeding from 2008 plantings



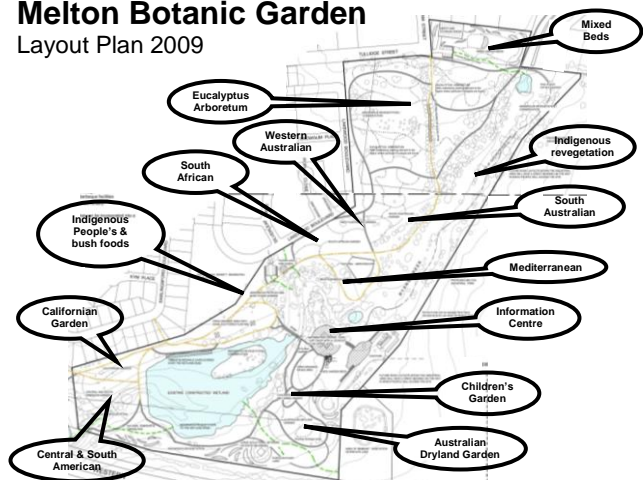
... and here they are on mass



Take a walk along Ryans Creek before Christmas to see what is flowering.

Melton Botanic Garden

Layout Plan 2009



Membership

Renewals are due by July 1st – Have you renewed?

Please encourage some new memberships from your friends and family. To date we have over 100 members for 2009-2010 and 5 corporate members.

Single - \$10, Single concession or student -\$5, Household/Concession - \$20/\$10, Associate - \$20, Corporate - \$50

New memberships are approved each month at the Executive meeting.

Please call Jill 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form.

2010 Calendar

Another exciting year of guest speakers and activities is in store for 2010. Here is a taste of what is to come.

Our major speaker for 2010 is **John Patrick** from ABC Gardening Australia. He will be with us in September. Another great speaker is **John Arnott** Director of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Melbourne.

We are planning to have speakers present on some of the planned themed garden beds in the Melton Botanic Garden for example Plants of South Africa. **Barb Pye** will give us a glimpse of the arid plants of Australia following their recent trip to South Australia and NT. Barb will also be with us in March on plants we can propagate for the Melton Botanic Garden.

FMBG Corporate Members 2009 / 2010

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9743 5033
Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

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

Satellite City Furniture

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

SOV Consulting

Melton VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9746 7558
Manager: Con Nikakis
Email: nikakisc@gmail.com

Western Land Services

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

Your Committee

President: John Bentley (9743 3819)
Vice-President: Allan Benson (9746 6641)
Treasurer: Margaret Peters (5367 3328)
Secretary: Janet Dyke (9743 2733)
Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)
Executive members: Jill Bentley (9743 3819) & Dave Peters (5367 3328)
Safety Officer: Dave Peters (5367 3328)



If you have stories or photographs from activities in the Melton Botanic Garden please send them to: editor@fmbg.org.au

Newsletter:

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Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

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