



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter January/February 2012

No.18



Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – Eucalyptus Arboretum South Western section November 2011 ©John Bentley



Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – Eucalyptus Arboretum from North West corner January 2011 ©John Bentley

## January Events

**10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5.30pm Potting up evening & BBQ**

Barb & David Pyes – Bullengarook

**12<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10am-noon Weed Spraying**

Eucalyptus Arboretum - Melton Botanic Garden

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 8am-5pm**

Bunnings Melton. Helpers wanted – contact Jill 9743 3819

## February Events

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Executive Committee Planning Day**

**8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 6.30pm FMBG Start of Year Celebration**

Meet at the rotundas near the lake – Free BBQ

**10<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30-4.30pm Eucalypts Arboretum Working Party Meeting**

MSC Offices

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Day & Waterwatch**

Meet at the rotundas near the lake

contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

**9<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day**

Melton Botanic Garden



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

**"Leaders in Sustainability"**

# Nearly There! Target 200



We are a smidge away from increasing  
our membership base to 200  
for 2011/2012

**You can help reach our  
target 200 just**

## **"Sign up a friend"**

For membership information please contact:  
Jill Bentley 9743 3819 or see the website

Upcoming Meetings

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30pm  
BBQ / Sausage Sizzle**

**Welcome to 2012**

**Melton Botanic Garden**

Meet at Rotundas

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**9am-3pm**

**BGANZ Victorian Branch  
Network Meeting**

**including a tour of the  
Melton Botanic Garden**

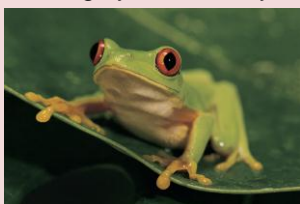
Melton Community Centre

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm**  
**Frog-scaping your garden with  
native plants**

**by Ade Foster**

This presentation covers the pros and cons of a frog-pond, how to build one, what to landscape with, and the frogs you are likely to find



For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

**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, a good meeting space, kitchen and toilets.

December – End-of-Year Celebration

A great end of year celebration was had by all involved at Bev and Allan Benson's home. Many thanks go to Bev and Allan for being great hosts.



**BGANZ Network Meeting at Melton**

FMBG will be hosting the BGANZ Victorian Branch Network Meeting on Wednesday 7th March. The meeting attracts up to 80 participants from botanic gardens in Victoria. This is a great coup for Melton and FMBG and will go even further to promoting the MBG.

We will be calling for volunteers to assist in hosting the meeting. So please look to help.

## Bellarine Peninsula Bus Trip

Our visit to the Geelong Botanic Garden and three different nurseries in the Geelong region by a small group in the Melton Community Bus was a most enjoyable and interesting day. Our first visit was to Vaughan's Australian native plants nursery at Curlewis where there was a most extensive and interesting range of native plants, many not easily available elsewhere as this is a specialized nursery. Some of us were tempted and purchased plants from here that had to share space in the bus.

The next stop on our way to the Geelong Botanic Gardens was at Van Loon's at Wallington where we had a coffee or tea at their cafe. This nursery has a very varied range of plants both exotic and Australian including fruit trees and indoor plants as well as garden decorative items.

After a short drive to Geelong we arrived at the Botanic Gardens around lunch time. Parking spaces were in short supply and the bus had to be squeezed into a very tight spot by the skill of Tony our driver. It was a very windy day but a pleasant sheltered area just outside the café was ideal for our picnic lunch. Generally the gardens were in very good condition with all areas seeming to be well watered. A feature that gained a lot of interest was the geranium and pelargonium house with many beautiful and unusual specimens.

The 21st Century Garden with its drought tolerant trees and various other plants was in good condition with a lot of growth made by the Australian eremophila shrubs .

We left the Geelong Gardens for home with a detour into Lara for a visit to the Roraima Nursery. This is a nursery that is really different and well worth a look. They specialize in unusual plants, some that could only be described as strange or weird. Many of these originate from Madagascar and central America. This nursery also stocks more traditional garden plants and trees including some Australian natives.

A late afternoon coffee or tea was enjoyed at a park in Lara before the trip home to Melton after a very interesting full day of visiting gardens in the Geelong region.

*Report by Alan Partridge*



*The field trip participants*



*Fun from the back of the bus*

## Grow the Garden Days (GTGD)

After torrential rainfall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, we thought that the Grow the Garden Day would be cancelled but it turned out to be a very pleasant morning. About 20 of us turned up and we worked tirelessly to plant around 200 plants. In fact it took us around about an hour .A job well done by everyone. After that we collected rubbish and gave the Gardens a good clean up.

The cup of tea went down well.

*Report by Les and Elaine*

## Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meetings is on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30pm at the Bentley's place.

## Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

Some activities in December included weeding and moving rocks.



*Kelvin moving rocks*



*Some rocks being placed by Kelvin in his bobcat*



*Admiring some of the placed rocks*

## MBG Eucalyptus arboretum - update

Since on site work on the 4 hectare arboretum site commenced last January, the following has been achieved:

- Preparation (weed control) and cultivation of the site

- Construction of primary paths to the level of a crushed rock base.
- Construction of secondary paths, including surface topping with woodchips (90% completed)
- Fencing of the area to stop vehicle travel through the site
- Planting of 400 Eucalypts of 60 species. A range of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds planted the Eucalypts over three planting days.
- Planting of several hundred understorey shrubs and groundcovers
- Siting of three truckloads of donated rocks
- Ongoing weed control and general maintenance
- Commencement of production of further Eucalypts for planting in 2012 (200 plants of 30-40 species)
- Commencement of production of 16,000 understorey shrubs and groundcovers for autumn planting
- Commencement of plans to construct an information shelter
- A draft brochure on the arboretum
- A Eucalyptus arboretum webpage on the FMBG website
- Botanic labels attached to 100 established eucalypts in the area.

Many groups and individuals have contributed to these achievements, especially FMBG members, the CVGT Work Experience Team, and APS members.

Other outcomes from the project to date include:

- More than three guided walks conducted for groups
- Presented over 5 talks to groups and the BGANZ Congress (in Oct 2011) on the Eucalyptus Arboretum
- Have developed a PowerPoint presentation on the Eucalyptus Arboretum.
- Articles on progress on Eucalyptus Arboretum appeared in FMBG Newsletter and the APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Newsletter throughout 2011. Article in Campsis, the Newsletter of Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens on the Eucalyptus Arboretum
- Melton Botanic Garden description and photos on Shire of Melton webpages
- Display of Eucalyptus Arboretum at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show 2011 and the Shire of Melton Djerriwarrh Festival.

Work during the next 6 months involves:

- Ongoing weed control and maintenance. A small group (Gumnuts) is being formed to meet on Tuesdays twice a month for this purpose
- Planting of 200 or more trees, and 16,000 shrubs and groundcovers
- Development of signage
- Establishment of plans to construct a service facility based on a storage shed and meeting room
- Completion of path and other site construction works.

Volunteers who would like to join the maintenance group or help with planting are asked to contact Jill Bentley (9743 3819) or David Pye (5428 9369).

The next Working Party meeting is Thursday 10 February to plan the work for the next few months and early 2012.

**Contributions to help build the Arboretum:** If you or anyone you know is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment.

**Wanted:** Anyone have a ute they don't want or at a very low price?

### Celebration - Completion of the CVGT Work Experience

A few of us were in attendance to thank the CVGT Work Experience Activity Team and Andrew as the team leader for all their work in the Eucalyptus Arboretum at the Melton Botanic Garden. It was decided to transfer the welcoming and congratulations at their headquarters behind Don Nardella's office in McKenzie St because of the inclement weather.

Don Nardella was in attendance as well as the Deputy Lord Mayor, Broden Borg. After the many thanks were given to CVGT, Jarrod (aged 4 who knows all the team members by name) handed out memorial cups to the participants of CVGT to show our appreciation of all the work they contributed.

The BBQ and cups of tea and biscuits rounded off a very good morning.

*Report by Les and Elaine*

There was a good article in the Melton Leader about the achievements of the team. We are planning for a new team to commence in March.

### Eucalyptus Arboretum Contacts

Project Manager:	David Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com
Working Party Chair:	John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au
Plants:	Barb Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com
Site Preparation:	David Pye (5428 9369) dabpye@gmail.com John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au
Funding:	John Bentley (9743 3819) president@fmbg.org.au

### Fundraising at Bunnings

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Sausage Sizzle

Assistance needed anytime 8am - 5pm

Please contact Margaret or Jill



At the last sausage sizzle on 22<sup>nd</sup> December we raised \$550 (photo of the happy helpers). Great work everyone and much appreciated.

### Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Have you seen anyone wearing their new name badge? Would you like your own FMBG name badge?



A badge will cost you \$20 inc GST.

The Executive decided it was too expensive to provide these from FMBG funds.

If you would like one and are prepared to pay for the badge please see Jill Bentley.

### FMBG Logo Badges



We have plenty of FMBG button badges. Please let Jill know if you need a badge. Keep wearing your badge to meetings, in public— we are being noticed! – show your badge for a discount at the Newport Indigenous Nursery.

### Potting on Eucalyptus Arboretum Plants

About a dozen of us went there on the 10th January and re-potted a couple of hundred plants. After that we had an enjoyable BBQ.



The atmosphere was great and we all enjoyed the scenery. With so many helpers, the work went very quickly. This is one way to greet the New Year.

If you would like to see what 60 acres of land nestled among the natural habitat, visit Dave and Barb Pye's place at Bullengarook. Look for the large yellow roadside mailbox about 100m after the Landcare sign for the entrance to the property.

*Report by Elaine & Les.*



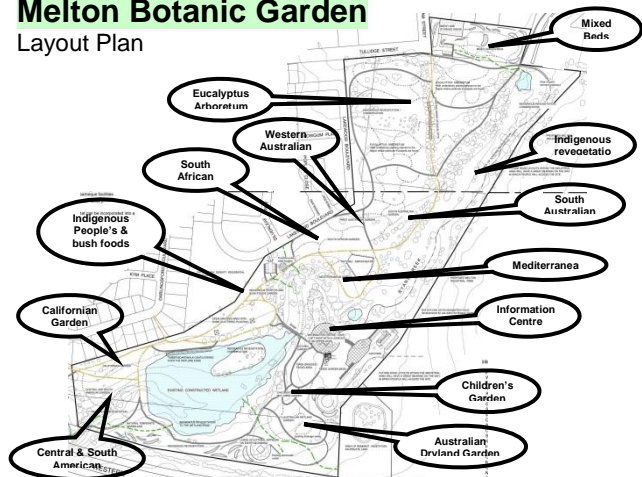
#### BGANZ

FMBG is an associate member of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Publications and information on their website are well worth reading if you are interested in Botanic Gardens.

See: [www.bganz.org.au](http://www.bganz.org.au)

**Melton Botanic Garden**

Layout Plan



**Membership**

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in China, Hong Kong, UK, Canada and the USA. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We are aiming for 200 in 2011-2012. So sign up a friend.

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](mailto:friends@fmbg.org.au)**

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.

**2012 Calendar**

We are well underway to planning exciting meetings, trips and speaker program for 2012. **If you have any suggestions please contact Janet Dyke.**

**Facebook Fans**

If you use Facebook you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type "Melton Botanic Garden" into the Facebook search box and you should be able to find the group.

**FMBG Corporate Members 2010/11**

**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

**Melton Toyota**

143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337  
Ph: (03) 8746 0300

**Platinum Accounting & Taxation**

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337  
Ph: (03) 9746 6479  
Manager: Corinne Cole  
Email: [info@platinumaccounting.com.au](mailto:info@platinumaccounting.com.au)

**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](mailto:nikakisc@gmail.com)

**Western Land Services**

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

**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)
	Lyn Nardella
	Corinne Cole
	Allan Benson
Safety Officer:	John Bentley
FMBG librarian:	Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

**Newsletter:**

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)  
Email: [editor@fmbg.org.au](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)



**FMBG can give presentations to groups as well as 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](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

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