



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter March/April 2012

No.19



Photo: Melton Botanic Garden – Botanic Garden Lake February 2012 ©John Bentley

March Events

4th Sunday 10am-noon Clean Up Australia Day
Meet at rotundas followed by BBQ at Hannah Watts Park

17th Saturday 3.30pm APS Afternoon tea & walk
We are hosting afternoon tea at the MBG for the Victorian APS meeting – can you help?

8th & 25th 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day

26th Monday 2.30-5pm Eucalypts Arboretum Working Party Meeting
MSC Offices

***Gumnuts** – 1st and 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon – meet at the Eucalyptus Arboretum

***Ryans Creek** – Every Thursday 10am-noon – Meet at Ryans Creek

April Events

11th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting

15th Sunday Clean Up Day & Waterwatch
Meet at the rotundas near the lake
contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070
Meet at the rotundas near the lake – Free BBQ

12th & 22nd 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day

29th Sunday FMBG Bus Trip
A mystery trip

***Gumnuts** – 1st and 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon – meet at the Eucalyptus Arboretum

***Ryans Creek** – Every Thursday 10am-noon – Meet at Ryans Creek



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"

**FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM**

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

We are now truly international as we have members
in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK,
USA, and Saudi Arabia.

Apologies to our New Zealand members as they
noticed they had been ignored in the newsletters as
international members and weren't impressed!

[Editor]

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday 14th March 7.30pm
Frog-scaping your garden with native plants

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

Wednesday 11th April 7.30pm



Wendy Hallinan

Education & Administration Officer

Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

This presentation covers the relocation of the Peaka Homestead to create catering facilities built by volunteers

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.

Melbourne Water Grant

FMBG were successful applicants for a 2012 Melbourne Water Grant. We have \$16,000 plus GST for improvement around the west side of the lake with weed removal and indigenous plantings. Project title is Lake Rehabilitation Stage 1.

We also received a Community Support Grant of \$1,000 to produce brochures and banners.

BGANZ Network Meeting at Melton

FMBG hosted the BGANZ Victorian Branch Network Meeting on Wednesday 7th March. The meeting had 75 participants from botanic gardens in Victoria. This was a great coup for Melton and FMBG and will go even further to promoting the MBG.

We had 18 FMBG volunteers assisting to make the day a very successful event.

The Mayor Cr Justin Mammarella presented the welcome address. The theme of the meeting was developing new botanic gardens. John Bentley gave a presentation on the Melton Botanic Garden. Other presentations included the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Stage 2 and the new Shepparton Botanic Garden. The "Around the Traps" session gave people from other botanic gardens the opportunity to update everyone on new developments in their garden.

We had lunch sponsored by Western Land Services followed by a tour of the Melton Botanic Garden.



Mayor Cr Justin Mammarella – Welcome address



BGANZ Audience – MSC Community Hall

Many thanks to our sponsors Western Land Services in funding the catering for the day, and Witchmount Estate and Galli wineries for providing the gifts for the speakers. Thanks also to the Melton Shire Staff for their assistance and MSC for providing the venue.

MSC Grant

Recently FMBG received an MSC Collingwood Community Grant to purchase tops and hats to assist in FMBG identity and also to purchase new mail merge software for improved electronic communication to members. We proudly wore our tops and hats for the first time at the BGANZ Network meeting. We looked really good (see photo).



FMBG Volunteers in the new polo tops and hats

What gum trees do you like?

At the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser in January we spoke to many people about the Melton Botanic Garden. One father and his young son came for a sausage. When asked “do know about the Melton Botanic Garden”, the young boy said “Yes, we go for walks there and read the labels on the trees”. Then we asked “what are your favourite trees”. He replied “river red and ironbark”. We were all amazed and thought it rewarding that we had taken the effort to put 100 botanic labels on 15 species of established eucalypts.

Do you have any great stories to pass on? We would love to publish them.

Gumnuts Report

On Tuesday February 7th a few of us joined The Mary Gibbs Society and became Gumnuts. Yes that is correct. Every second Tuesday a few of us come down to the Eucalyptus Arboretum and weed, water, repair and maintain the gum trees. It takes about two hours of solid work to keep everything in ship shaped condition. When visiting the gardens you can see the work that has been done and hopefully results will show in due course. We were greatly surprised to see a large number of trees survived the summer heat and are flourishing.

Reporters: Les and Elaine

Start of the Year Celebration

On Wednesday February 8th at 6.30pm we held a Back to the Botanic Garden BBQ and walk at Melton Botanic Garden.

A large number of us gathered at the Rotunda and welcomed in the start of 2012 working year and also celebrated the hard work everyone put in last year 2011. A lot of work was achieved and we can see the results. On the other hand we look forward to even more work being done in 2012. We are awaiting toilets and parking areas to be completed by the council. Once that is completed we will go ahead in leaps and bounds. We walked through the Eucalyptus arboretum and also saw the construction of the new road in Tullidge Street.

Reporters: Les and Elaine



Allan and Alan doing their BBQ thing!



Walking through the Eucalypts Arboretum

Many thanks to Western Land Services for donating services to the value of \$1,000 for use in the Melton Botanic Garden

Clean-up day Sunday 12th February

What a day it was. About 14 of us worked tirelessly to collect a dozen or so bags of rubbish. This time we also worked around the other side of the lake and found bits of cars dumped, tomato plants thrown over the fence, half empty 44 gallon drum as well as the normal rubbish.

Any way we had a nice cuppa afterwards which made up for the hard work we put in.

Reporters: Les and Elaine.



Everyone getting ready for the clean up

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meeting is on Tuesday 20th March 7.30pm at the Bentley's place.

Parks Vic Walking Group Visit MBG

Ruth Stirling is the walks leader with the Bushwalking and Activities Group of the Vic National Parks Assoc. On Monday 13th February a group of 20 walkers travelled out to Melton on the train. The 11.40am from the city to be precise. They walked north up Toolern Creek to their intended destination the Melton Botanic Gardens. What a great promotion to have this walked promoted by Parks Victoria in their magazine and for 20 people to specifically travel to Melton to see the Botanic Garden. Thanks to Janet Dyke for meeting the group and handing out information.

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

FMBG Patron Jane Edmanson OAM

FMBG heartedly welcomes Jane Edmanson OAM (BA 1971(Monash), DipEd 1972) as Patron of the Friends of the Melton Botanic



Garden. Jane accepted the role in March 2012. You may know Jane from TV and radio as one of the most well respected gardeners in Australia. For those who may not know, Jane is a

professional gardener, television and radio presenter who, for many years, has encouraged others to explore their own backyards.

Jane Edmanson presents 'The Big Backyard' with Darren James every Saturday and Sunday Morning on 3AW. She also gives gardening advice on Magic 1278. Jane is seen regularly on ABC television's national 'Gardening Australia'. She also writes gardening articles for magazines and gives talks on gardening.

Jane has been involved in horticulture for over 35 years and in gardening media since 1989. Prior to nursery work Jane was a secondary school teacher and then worked for twelve years at the Victorian Schools Nursery at which she became Deputy Principal.

Jane certainly enjoys public speaking and taking garden tours. She is in demand as a speaker at numerous horticulture and gardening events. She takes garden tours to many places around the world, including Europe, China, New Zealand, the USA, Canada and also within Australia.

Jane is author and co-author of several gardening books. These include: Ideas from Private Gardens, The Australian Garden, Jane Edmanson's Favourite Plants, Cheap and Easy Propagation, Jane Edmanson's Working Manual for Gardeners and From the Ground Up.

Until April 1994, Jane was a partner in the Bell Street Garden Centre.

Jane received her OAM at the Queen's Birthday 2004 Honours for service to horticulture, particularly through the promotion of environmentally sustainable gardening practices, and the encouragement and education young gardeners.

FMBG are very honoured that Jane is patron of our group.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show March 28 – April 1
See the FMBG hanging basket and display at RHSV stand

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

The Eucalypts are growing well. Some even needed staking as they are getting too top heavy with so much new growth. Rain in February and warm warmer have given them a further spurt.



Gumnuts – 1st Day

The Gumnuts commenced on 6th February. This group will undertake ongoing weed control and maintenance. Gumnuts meets at Eucalyptus Arboretum on the first and third Tuesdays each month. If you would like to join the Gumnuts please contact Jill Bentley (9743 3819) or David Pye (5428 9369).



Barb getting the potting mix ready



Potters hard at work



Everyone potting away

In January on a cool night we had a great group of volunteers pot up many of the understorey we propagated from cutting at the October meeting. It certainly was exciting potting up the babies we started. We should be planting these in June this year. We are expecting to plant around 20,000 understorey plants in the Eucalyptus Arboretum this year. The Gordon (Institute of TAFE Geelong) are propagating about 5,000 difficult to grow species in Geelong for the arboretum. Western Plains Flora is propagating many other species.



The plants in the hot house

We are looking to re-allocate \$40,000 of funds to a storage shed and depot at the north of MBG. We do need some tradespeople who can contribute electrical and plumbing skills to the project. We will also need more funds to connection to power, water and sewerage. This depot is essential if we are to continue to build the botanic garden.

The next Working Party meeting is Monday 26 March at 2.30pm.

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?

The Next CVGT Work Experience Team

We are working with CVGT to commence the next team. We will need a new team leader. If you or anyone you know who might be a suitable candidate please contact John Bentley (9743 3819). See notice at bottom of page.

Myrtle Rust

The fungus *Uredo rangellii* (myrtle rust), was recently found in Victoria for the first time and poses a threat to Victoria's nursery, forestry and beekeeping industries, as well as to public parks and gardens and native forests. It can potentially attack all species of the Myrtaceae plant family.



The Department of Primary Industry (DPI) has detected myrtle rust at 25 sites in Victoria, mainly at production nurseries and wholesale outlets in and around metropolitan Melbourne. However, the most recent myrtle rust detection was at a public park in the south-eastern metropolitan area. This means it can no longer be assumed the disease is confined to a particular area.

Experience elsewhere in Australia shows it won't be possible to eradicate the disease, so the focus is now on management to minimise its spread and impact.

For more information see: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

To help contain Myrtle Rust in Victoria, FMBG has decided that NO plants of the Myrtle family (Myrtaceae) may be brought to any meetings sponsored by FMBG, including monthly meetings and plant sales. This ban applies until January next year. The ban includes material for the display, raffles and plants for sale. Many other groups are doing the same e.g. APS, garden clubs, RHSV.

The most commonly grown Myrtaceous plants include: Eucalypts, Callistemons, Leptosperms, Chamelaucium, Acmena or Szygium (Lillypillies), and Agonis. A complete list of genera affected can be found on the DPI website.

It is a fungal disease noted for producing yellow spores. If you think that you might have it, you should notify DPI, and stay away from the infected plant.

Alan Partridge has volunteered to monitor the Melton Botanic Garden for any possible sighting of myrtle rust on plants.

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 29th January

This Sausage Sizzle was on a really hot and humid day – it certainly tested the team. However, even though traffic was slow we raised a profit of \$564.75. We also had some first time 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 which includes 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.

Paid Team Leader Wanted for Melton Botanic Garden

An exciting opportunity as a team leader exists to supervise a team of 10 people aged 24 plus.

Are you or anyone you may know interested in a paid 2 days per week (15 hours) position?

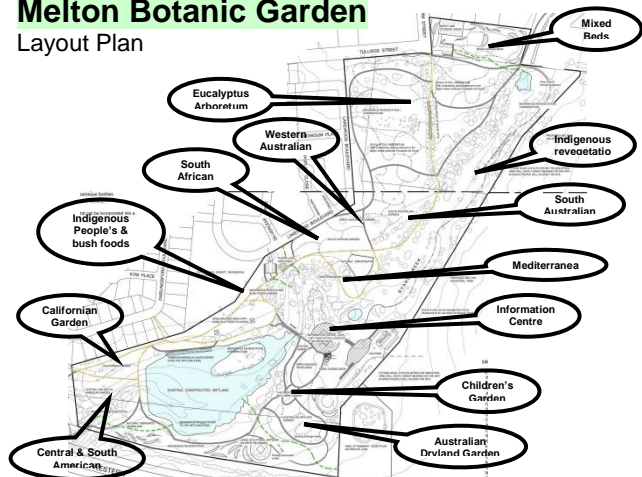
FMBG are working with CVGT Employment & Training Specialists to provide a Work for the Dole team in the Melton Botanic Garden for 6 months starting in late March or April. A position description is available.

The position is employed through CVGT. Interviews will be held by CVGT.

Please contact John Bentley (president@fmbg.org.au) if you are interested and for the position description.

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

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 confirming the speakers for meetings and planning trips for 2012. ***If you have any suggestions for speakers later in the year 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

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
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



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

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