



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter May/June 2012

Growing Plants Growing People

No.20



Photo: Eucalyptus Arboretum – Planting Team on 26 April 2012 where 350 *Dianella brevicaulis* were planted ©Photo taken by Alan Partridge

May Events

3th Thursday 2.30-5pm Eucalypts Arboretum Working Party Meeting
MSC Offices

9th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting
Botanic Art - Helene Wild
DJ Cunningham Centre, Melton South

12th May Saturday 9am-1pm Native Plant Sale
FMBG Table - Bacchus Marsh Gisborne Road

19th Saturday 10am-2pm Bunnings Melton
FMBG Display for National Volunteer Week – Help wanted

22nd Tuesday 7.30pm EucA Signage Meeting
Please contact David Pye:

10th & 27th 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day

June Events

10th Sunday Clean Up Day & Waterwatch
Meet at the rotundas near the lake
Contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

13th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Meeting - Neutrog

22nd Friday 6.30pm FMBG Social Dinner

12th & 24th 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day

Regular Activity Groups

***Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum

***Lakers:** 2nd and 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – meet at the Lake

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



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM

FMBG Wins!

Best Community or Not for Profit Organisation Award

at the
**Powercor Melton Business
Excellence Awards**



Thanks to all of our members and Executive Committee. It your membership, hard work and contribution that has made this award possible.

The award was sponsored by Matchworks.

Thanks to Janet and Jill for preparing our submission and everyone who met the judges

FMBG is international - we have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday 9th May 7.30pm
Botanical Art

Helene Wild

This presentation covers the fine art of painting plants and flowers from a botanical perspective

You will see some magnificent work



Photo source: www.rbg.vic.gov.au/static/botart2006/Wild_H.html

Helene's work is represented in private and corporate collections worldwide, including the Castlemaine Art Gallery in rural Victoria and the botanic art collection of the RBG Melbourne, Helene's work adorns a range of commercial products including cards, stationery, placemats, decals and ceramics. In 1999, she was appointed permanent Resident Artist for the Habitat Trust and was allocated space for her own botanic art gallery.

Helene's work for Trust celebrates the indigenous flora of Melbourne's west, and the plants that are featured in the Basaltica WaterWise Garden.

Always looking for a different approach, Helene's work often extends the boundaries of traditional botanic art.

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.

Wednesday 13th June 7.30pm



Neutrog Fertilisers

Helen Level

Find out what goodies you should be adding to your garden and about the Pooh-bah club

All attendees will receive FREE samples of the latest Neutrog products.

You also have the opportunity to purchase a pre-ordered copy of the book 'From The Ground Up' written specifically for Victoria by our Patron Jane Edmanson.

This unique book normally retails for \$64.96, but Neutrog takes pleasure in providing books to FMBG for the special price of \$49.95.

To ensure that enough books are brought along to the talk, you will need to contact Janet Dyke 9743 2733 if you wish to purchase a book.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819

BGANZ Network Meeting at Melton

We received a very nice thank you letter from BGANZ Victoria acknowledging the work of the FMBG, the MSC and our sponsors in hosting a very successful day.



The team getting ready for the Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards judging

Lakers - Melbourne Water Grant 2012

The Lakers group has commenced. They meet at the lake in the Melton Botanic garden on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 10am to noon. Weeding of the lake wall will commence with spraying by Chalice Environmental. We have \$16,000 from Melbourne Water for improvement around the west side of the lake for weed removal and indigenous plantings. Project title is Lake Rehabilitation Stage 1. Come along anytime.

For information contact Jill Bentley: 9743 3819.

Let's Celebrate Target 200



Thanks to you FMBG has a membership base of over 200 for 2011/2012 plus 7 corporate members

We are aiming to at least maintain this target for 2012/2013

So please renew your member and try to sign up a friend

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

Social Dinner Friday March 23rd

The dinner at the Golden Fleece Hotel was very enjoyable. About 17 of us attended. The meal was very good with no complaints.

The Easter raffle was won by Ted. A very worthy winner. It only goes to show that things come to those who wait. Maybe it will be your turn next time.

Anyone who hasn't been to the social dinner, please come as it is a wonderful get together and enjoy your fellow members company.



Ted with his Easter raffle prize



Enjoying the social dinner

Reporter: Les Gordon

FMBG Meeting Report 14 March

How was everybody's knowledge on frogs before Wednesday's meeting? I can truly say that mine was very limited. Well after Ade Foster's talk it improved a lot. His discussion on frogscaping your garden was very informative. It would be worthwhile if you have the area and time to put in to establish a frog pond. The benefits would be great. On the other hand I don't think I could have them in the house as pets or wait two years for them to travel to the pond. I didn't know that it was illegal to bring them home from the creeks or waterways. I used to do it as a kid but now times have changed. I presume that they could be on the endangered list.



Abe Foster March Meeting

It was good to see that Jane Edmanson has become Patron of FMBG. Well done to everyone who pulled off this remarkable feat.

The BGANZ conference went extremely well. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Elaine would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts on her health regarding her broken ankle and her thanks for the card. She hopes to be on her feet in about 4 weeks.

Reporter: Les Gordon

Monthly meeting 11 April 2012

The meeting was a quite affair as we had a lot of members away either due to ill health or on business or overseas.

Nevertheless it went very smoothly and John filled in for the absence of our guest speaker.

He entertained us with photographs of The Singapore Botanic Gardens. It is much bigger than Melbourne and the facilities and layout were something to behold. It was established in 1859 but new gardens are being continually added. If one goes to Singapore, it is a place worth visiting. Now we know the extent our work has to achieve.

We also found out there will be a new entrance from Tullidge Street into the Melton Botanic Garden. The council had to organise a new entrance as they could not use the old entrance due the design of the new sealed road. About 14 *Allocasuarina verticillata* Drooping Sheoaks will be planted on the nature strip along the south side of Tullidge Street.

Reporter: Les Gordon

Grow the Garden Day

On Sunday March 25th with Margaret overseas Alan Partridge took control. We had a lot of planting to do and had to share our area with the Melton Gun Club and their dogs. Nevertheless we soldiered on and planted over hundred plants on the eastern side of Ryans Creek.

It was hard work as we had to start from scratch, dig holes, plant the trees, put guards around and finally water them. It was a job well done and everyone should be pleased with the effort.

Also Elaine wishes to thank everyone for their kind thoughts in her handicapped condition.

Reporter: Les Gordon

Gumnuts Report

Gumnut Day Tuesday 3rd April

Yes I am back to renew my membership with the May Gibbs Society. Well not only me but about eight of us were at the Eucalyptus Arboretum at Ryans Creek as the Gumnut group went to work in planting gum trees.

We replanted well over a hundred gum trees to replace those that had died. Although I left at 1pm there were quite a few others who I believe worked to about 2pm. They were laying mulch around the newly planted trees. Well done.

The Gumnut Group meets at the Eucalyptus Arboretum every first and third Tuesday. So if you have a couple of hours to spare to help maintain these trees please feel free to join us.

Gumnut Day Tuesday 17 April 2012

Everyone who came put in a tremendous amount of work in the Arboretum. We dug holes, planted trees, watered them and put guards around the appropriate ones and finally mulched them. All in all over 120 trees were planted. We had two volunteers from APS for which we were very grateful indeed. Thank you to those ladies. An inspection from the Council Representatives occurred at 3pm. I shall fill you in at the next report.

Reporter: Les Gordon

Allocasuarina verticillata

Common name: Drooping Sheoak

Allocasuarina verticillata is a round-headed, small-to-medium-sized tree that will grow in a variety of sites. It is well-known as a tree tolerant of sandy, dry soils, and coastal salt spray. Although known as a coastal plant, *A. verticillata* also grows successfully on the heavy, cracking clays near Bacchus Marsh.

A. verticillata has been used extensively on difficult sites both in Australia and abroad. It is extremely heat-tolerant, and will grow, once established, with minimal additional irrigation.

Trees in excellent condition show long, pendulous branchlets of delicate, grey-green foliage with a horizontally-stripped trunk. These slow-growing trees become rounded balls of fine foliage with age (although coarser than other sheoaks), but as young trees they can appear very ungainly and sparse. In containers of whatever size, and until the tree is over 5m tall, *A. verticillata* looks poorly-grown, but this appearance will change with age.

Source: www.metrotrees.com.au/treehandbook/page-listings/allocasuarina-verticillata.html

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

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show March 28 – April 1

We had much interest in the FMBG hanging basket and also our display at RHSV stand Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help on the stand, it is certainly appreciated. We got to say "hello" to our patron Jane Edmanson after one of her presentations. We had a number of Melton people who came to the stand and were quite surprised but pleased to discover Melton had a botanic garden.

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

Executive Committee

Next Executive Committee Meetings are Tuesday 27th May and 19th June 7.30pm at the Bentleys

National Volunteer Week 14-20 May 2012

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2012 is:
Volunteers - Every One Counts

Here are some quotes for volunteers:

"Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

"Here's to all volunteers, those dedicated people who believe in all work and no pay" - Robert Orben

"Volunteers are paid in six figures...S-M-I-L-E-S" - Gayla LeMaire

And finally:

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer" - Author Unknown

GARD OF ID By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



The AGM is in August. Have you considered being on the Executive Committee or taking a lead in an FMBG activity?

Promotion at Bunnings National Volunteers Week Saturday 19th May

As part of Volunteer Week we are having a promotion at Bunnings from 10am – 2pm to encourage people to volunteer at the Melton Botanic Garden and to join FMBG. Can you spare some time to help?

Please contact Jill Bentley 9743 3819

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development Planting during May 2012

We are continuing to develop the Eucalypt arboretum in the Melton Botanic Garden, and would love to see you on any of the planting days in May. There are lots of opportunities to help plant the garden.

The general pattern of each day will be:

- Session 1: 10 am to 11.30 am - planting
- 11.30 am - tea break
- Session 2: 12.00 to 1.30 pm - planting
- 1.30 pm - lunch break
- Session 3: 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm - planting

We would be delighted to see you at sessions 1, 2 and/or 3 or whatever suits you.

Please bring your own lunch.

Meet at the Eucalyptus arboretum, corner of Tullidge & William Streets, Melton (MEL337 D10)

Planting dates are:

- Tuesday 1st May 10am to 3 pm
- Thursday 3rd May 10am to 2 pm early finish due to Working Party meeting
- Tuesday 15th May 10am to 3 pm
- Thursday 17th May 10am to 3 pm
- Wednesday 23rd May 10am to 3 pm APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh monthly meeting - tour & planting
- Saturday 26th May 10am to 3 pm
- Thursday 31st May 10am to 3 pm

For further information, please contact Barb or David Pye (5428 9369 or dabpye@gmail.com)



David and Barb spraying couch in the indigenous grassy woodland section



Allan Benson digging holes for *Dianella brevicaulis* planting



Jean Partridge planting the first *Dianella brevicaulis*



Some of 350 *Dianella brevicaulis* planted on April 26th



Some of the team planting *Dianellas brevicaulis*

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. We will be constructing a depot with a 15m x 6m shed, and fencing. The shed will have a concrete foundation and floor, large equipment storage, toilet and kitchen. We do need to raise funds to connect electricity and wire-up the shed.

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

CVGT Team for the Melton Botanic Garden

FMBG are working with CVGT Employment & Training Specialists to provide Work Experience Activities for people registered with CVGT in the Melton Botanic Garden for 6 months starting on 9th May.

The team will be working on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Myrtle Rust

The fungus *Uredo rangelii* (myrtle rust) 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 now detected myrtle rust at 52 sites in Victoria. Recently detections have also been made at public parks and private residences, as well as at Shepparton and Ballarat in regional Victoria.

Myrtle rust is widespread in both New South Wales and Queensland, including some bushland areas, and because the disease is so easily spread, Victoria is likely to see further introductions from these states.

More than 1,000 people from industry and state and local government agencies have been trained by DPI in identifying and managing myrtle rust. 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.

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.

Businesses can be penalised \$6,107 for selling plants which they are reasonably expected to know are infected with myrtle rust. If you think that you might have it, you should notify DPI, and stay away from the infected plant.

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.

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

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

Your Own FMBG Name Badge

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

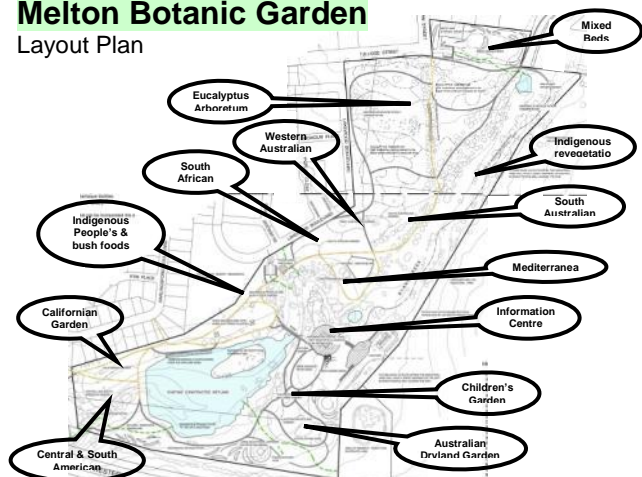
A badge will cost you \$20 which includes GST.

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

If you would like one please see Jill Bentley.

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 Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Saudi Arabia. Please encourage some new memberships from your contacts. We reached 148 members in 2009-2010, 141 members for 2010-2011. We have just over 200 in 2011-2012. So sign up a new member now and they will have membership until 30 June 2013.

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 all the speakers for meetings and planning trips for 2012. **If you have any suggestions for speakers later in the year or next 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 2011/12

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)

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

Newsletter:

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

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