



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter September/October 2012

Growing Plants Growing People

No.22



Eucalyptus Arboretum Planters 23 September 2012 ©Photo by John Bentley

September to November FMBG Events

FMBG September Meeting: Wednesday 12 September 7.30pm Philip Hempel on Eremophilas.

Bunnings Spring Launch: Saturday 15 September 10am – 4pm. Contact Jill 9743 3819 if you are able to help on the FMBG table.

Social Dinner: Friday 21 September 6.30pm at the Golden Fleece Hotel. Please book with Lyn Nardella on 0409 505 171.

Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 23 September 10am-noon. Eucalyptus Arboretum.

Platypus Festival: Saturday 6 October from 12 pm – 4 pm. Helpers needed for the FMBG stall and donations of plants to sell.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser: Sunday 7 October 8am – 5pm. Volunteers needed to cook, prepare, serve, clean etc. This is our big fundraiser for the year so please consider how you can help, even just for an hour or so. Contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328.

FMBG October Meeting: Wednesday 10 October 7.30pm. Propagation with Barb and David Pye.

City of Melton Staff visiting MBG: Thursday 11 October 10am-noon. We are hosting a morning tea and walk around the Melton Botanic Garden for staff of the City of Melton. This is a good opportunity to tell and show the officers of the city what a great place the Melton Botanic Garden is and will be. If you can help please call Jill on 9743 3819. Meet at the depot shed at 9.30am.

Clean Up Day and Waterwatch: Sunday 14 October 10-noon. Meet at the rotundas near the lake.

Coburn Primary School Fete: Friday 19 October 2pm – 7pm. FMBG stall providing information to the community.

Victoria University V4U Day: Friday 25 October 10am-3pm. Students and staff coming to the Melton Botanic Garden to help plant and weed. We need FMBG members to work with them and host them.

Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 28 October 10am-noon. Weeding, watering and planting.

Djerriwarrh Festival: Saturday 10 November 2012. FMBG stall all day. We would like people to help on the FMBG stall and also bring plants to sell to help raise some funds. The FMBG marquee will be at the Melton Recreation Reserve area – Enviro Hub.

FMBG November Meeting: Wednesday 14 November 7.30pm. Bruce Fordyce – American Travels.

Bus Trip: Sunday 18 November to Attila Kappitany's garden and Kuranga Native Nursery

Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 25 November 10am-noon.

Regular Activity Groups

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

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

***Ryans Creekers:** Thursdays 10am-noon – Meet Ryans Creek



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

"Leaders in Sustainability"



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

Best Community or Not for Profit Organisation



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM

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.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wednesday 14th November
7.30pm

American Travels

Bruce Fordyce

This presentation covers some of the plants, gardens sights and scenes of Bruce and Sharon's visit to Canada and the USA.



For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Wednesday 10th October
7.30pm



Propagation

Led by Barb and David Pye

Here is a great opportunity to get involved and help strike cuttings for planting in autumn 2013

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Wednesday 12th December
6.30pm

End of Year Celebration

Janet and Tony Dyke's House

Well the end of the year is nearly here and it is time to celebrate all the great things that we have achieved in 2012.

This will be a special occasion for Janet and Tony as the Dyke's house has been acquired to make way for a bridge.

We will have the big raffle with many prizes donated by Melton Businesses and our corporate members.

BYO BBQ meat, seats, utensils etc

Members asked to bring a salad or dessert to share

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

Have a day out - see

**CAPTURING FLORA
300 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN
BOTANICAL ART**

Art Gallery of Ballarat
25 September - 2 December 2012



Telopea speciosissima 1837-1842

Hand coloured engraving on paper

Miss Maund & Benjamin Maund

Capturing Flora will be the most comprehensive exhibition of Australian botanical art ever held in this country. It brings together over 300 images, the vast majority from the Art Gallery of Ballarat's collections.

Admission: \$12, Concession \$8, Child and Gallery Member Free

40 Lydiard Street, North Ballarat, Vic, 3350

Phone: 03 5320 5858

www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au



Melton City Council and the Collingwood Football Club
Community Benefit Program Grant Presentation 2012

Grants Update 2012

FMBG were successful in the Community Benefit Grant application for a security at the new depot shed. We received a cheque for \$3,127 at "The Club" at Caroline Springs from the Collingwood Football Club in conjunction with the City of Melton.

Renew Your Membership



We had 200 members by 30 June 2012
We are aiming to at least maintain this target for 2012/2013

Please renew your member and try to sign up a friend

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

Platypus Festival

Saturday 6 October 12 pm – 4 pm.

Helpers needed for the FMBG stall and donations of plants to sell. Contact Margaret on 5367 3328

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Sunday 7 October

Sunday 7 October 8am – 5pm.

Volunteers needed to cook, prepare, serve, clean etc.

This is our big fundraiser for the year so please consider how you can help, even just for an hour or so.

Contact Margaret Peters on 5367 3328.

Plant Propagation

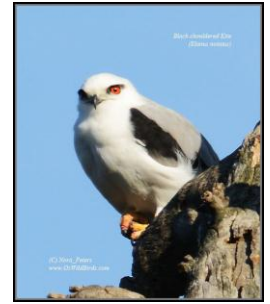
We are selling plants at the events FMBG attends over the coming months.

Spring is great time to start propagating and to pot up.

Please donate good condition and well-presented plants

Birds in the MBG

Amazing what bird life you can see in the Melton Botanic Garden. Nora Peters found some down near the lake in late August and has shared her story and photographs.



She says "I found the Lorikeets cuddling in the hollow, they weren't sure if the spot was suitable or not as they went around to the other hollows before flying off....then the Black Shoudered Kite flew in and perched on the top. I found it a bit difficult to get a good shot as there was a shadow across its back from the closest vantage point, so went around a little and took this one through the tree....at the same time the Lorikeets came back, same tree, and were having a 'push' before settling on the first hollow.....should be there for a while so I'll try and keep an eye on them in the Melton Botanic Garden."



Lorikeets at Home



Canoodling Lorikeets

Story and photos courtesy of Nora Peters (www.ozwildbirds.com)

Powercor Sponsorship

A power connection pit near the corner of William Street and Tullidge Street is being installed by Powercor specifically so we can connect the depot to the electricity network. This is a significant contribution to ensure the depot has power which enables the volunteers and CVGT teams to develop the Melton Botanic Garden. FMBG greatly appreciates the sponsorship provided by Powercor.



Powercor Goes Batty in the MBG

On August 24 Adam and Josh came in the Powercor bucket truck (apologies to anyone who does know what it is called) to install 30 bat boxes. Fifteen of which were very heavy (winter bat boxes). Adam and Josh were great ambassadors for Powercor. The large bat boxes are for winter hibernation and the smaller boxes are for summer. The slot at the bottom of each box is where the bat crawls in. The section at the bottom is the landing platform. Unfortunately it may be 2 years before we see any bats using the boxes.

Many thanks to Powercor for their support.



Box No. 10 awaiting installation



Bat boxes 6 and 4 installed



Adam and Josh from Powercor

Bosisto's Sponsorship Eucalyptus Arboretum Brochure

More great news as Bosisto's has sponsored the Eucalyptus Arboretum Brochure.

Bosisto's organised for 5,000 brochures to be printed and delivered to FMBG.



The brochure was available at the Bunnings Spring Launch and will be available at all our upcoming promotional activities.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - impromptu

A very good fund raising effort was achieved in making a profit of over \$1250 on Sunday 16 September. Excellent rallying by members to help out as we were only asked the day before as another group had to pull out. A great team effort and thanks to everyone who helped.

Bunnings Spring Launch

Another day to meet the public in Bunnings and let them know about the Friends and the Melton Botanic Garden. Many thanks to Ivor, Lyn, Margaret and Jill for being there.



National Tree Day Sunday 29th July.

What a wonderful day. It was a high success. We had over eighty scouts together with their parents and leaders from Melton and Caroline Springs in attendance. It was great to see that they appreciated what we are trying to achieve. With about twenty of our members pitching in, we did a lot of planting, staking and guarding the new trees. It was a great result. It only goes to show that many hands make light work. FMBG members prepared a wonderful barbeque and the sausages and drinks were much enjoyed. Hopefully this can be an annual event.



Reporters Elaine and Les.

FMBG Meeting 11 July

It was quite an entertaining meeting. Our guest speaker was Jason Caruso. He was very informative on small eucalypts. I don't think any of us realised that so many types of small eucalypts could be grown in our gardens. Many, like me think of large gum trees when thinking of eucalypts. If any of us have small backyards, then this would be a great way to enhance our native vegetation.

The shed has been erected and we are now awaiting electricity, water and toilet facilities to be installed. Also we have to find a few thousand dollars to have the shed up and running.

Reporters Elaine and Les.

Annual General Meeting. Wednesday 8th August.

The meeting was well attended despite the wintery conditions. I am happy to report that Don Nardella conducted the elections for the executive positions and at the end of the counting the positions remained the same. Congratulations to everyone on the Executive Committee in being re-elected. It only goes to show what a tremendous job they are doing. Also thanks go to the executive committee for the hard tasks they are performing each week. Well done everyone.

The photo competition was a huge success with many photos on display. Congratulations to all the winners.

Some of our committee members will be in Port Augusta in August to discuss our work in the Melton Botanic Garden and to see what can be achieved in the future for our gardens. Hopefully they will bring back some good ideas.

The new shed now has a fence around it for safeguarding and gravel has been laid for parking. Yet there is still a long way to go.

We enjoyed the entries in the photo competition and we all voted for the photos we liked the best. Well done to everyone who entered and to those who received prizes.

The meeting finished on a good note with the raffle being shared by a half dozen people.

Reporters Elaine and Les.

Monthly Meeting - 12 September 2012

Our guest speaker was Phil Hempel. He spoke on Eremophilas. To those uneducated like me, they are drought tolerant plants. They would have come in handy during the last decade of drought conditions in Victoria. Most survive in the heart of Australia. Many will grow really well in Melton but the right position would go a long way to maintain a good growth. Phil was very interesting to listen to on what the plants were all about.

Also Powercor has erected bat boxes in the gardens. I sincerely hope it attracts the bats.

Good news is that Alan Partridge and Allan Benson have completed an agricultural chemicals course and were presented with their

certificates at the meeting. This means they can undertake and supervise weed spraying in the Melton Botanic Garden. Well done fellows.

We are in the early stages on planning for our 10th anniversary in 2013. If anyone has any ideas for the celebration, please let John or Jill know. Any ideas would be greatly welcomed.

The conference in Port Augusta went well with many delegates from around the country in attendance. The next one will be held at the Gold Coast in 2014. Keep the date free in your diary. It won't take long to come around.

Gumnuts Report

Dave Pye on return from his holiday reported that growth in the Arboretum has shot up and the trees are starting to look great. CVGT workers are doing a great job in maintaining the area, so our work is not going astray.

17 July

A few hardy volunteers put in a few hours' work. We didn't have any plants or trees to plant as Dave was away so all we could do was weeding and tidying up the area. Nevertheless we worked steadily and kept the place looking good. Thank you everyone.

7 August

Both working days were well attended with over 9 people working hard to beautify the Arboretum area. With Dave and Barb away we ended up weeding both days and re-staking the trees which needed attention.

Reporters Elaine and Les.

Ryans Creekers

We have been helping those Creekers for the last few weeks. Weeding and mulching and watering have been high on the agenda. Last visit we planted new shrubs and small plants in and around trees. A lot more weeding has to be done if those plants are to survive. At the moment they are in competition with the weeds and grasses.

19 and 26 July

Yes we are still helping the creekers in beautifying the creek. Both days we sloshed our way across the creek to plant trees and maintain existing guards and stakes. Well over 100 new trees were planted on each day. We hadn't realised what outstanding work these creekers are doing under the leadership of Margaret. Every day we are joined by our friendly Willy Wag Tail. Also we noticed that rabbits are having a feed on our good work. We are working well and a lot of work has been done.

Reporters Elaine and Les.

Toyota Award

Aaron Benson a very active FMBG member who works at the Toyota factory in Altona is a winner in the Community Section of the Camry Hybrid Ambassador Competition.



For the prize Aaron gets to drive a hybrid Camry for a month. We are not sure if Toyota will let him tow the water tanker or throw the clean-up day rubbish bags in it when he comes to help in the Melton Botanic Garden. Aaron won for his contribution to the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden. Well done and congratulations Aaron on a well-deserved reward. Now can we line up to get a ride in a hybrid Camry?

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

**Arid Inland Botanic Gardens Port Augusta
17th – 19th August**



Eight FMBG members attended the conference. It was a very good networking event. We made new friends and caught up with old friends.



FMBG Members



John's presentation

Our promotional display had much interest and we had good comments about the display and information. Especially the electronic photo display.

The presentation was very well received and had a great impact.

A major highlight was visiting the Arid Inlands Botanic Garden depot and propagation facilities. See www.friendsbotanicgardens.org for photos



FMBG Display



Propagation Facilities

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

Inspirational Quotes for Volunteers

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. Anon

There is no better exercise for your heart, than weeding and planting in the Melton Botanic Garden. JFB

The best way to predict the future is to plant a tree in the Melton Botanic Garden. JFB

Have you considered being on the Executive Committee or taking a lead in an FMBG activity?

FMBG 10th Anniversary 2013

We are planning for our 10th anniversary in 2013. If anyone has any ideas for the celebration and events throughout the year, please let John or Jill know.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly 7.30pm at the Bentley's house

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.

FMBG Bus Trip
Attila Kappitany's Garden
and Kuranga Native
Nursery

Sunday 18th November

You may have seen Attila's succulent garden featured on ABC Gardening Australia. This is advanced notice because you need to book a seat on the bus early as this will be a very popular trip.

This is a combined trip with the Melton Garden Club and have booked two buses.

In the afternoon we will visit Kuranga Native Nursery and Paperbark Café.

Cost is \$20 and needs to be paid to book your seat on the bus.

Please contact Alan Partridge 9743 5761

Eucalyptus Arboretum Development

Understorey planting continues at the arboretum. Gumnuts and CVGT are planting. The grasslands area has been seeded with native grasses and the CVGT team have fenced the area. We had 100 mature eremophilas donated from a nursery in Hayfield which we planted recently.



Depot

The shed has been erected and we are making use of it for shelter and for morning tea. The toilet area frame is being built. We have to wait on a permit from Western Water for the sewerage connection and then the plumber can commence. Powercor are installing a power connection point.



We have sourced a Council approved electrician and to wire the shed. This work should commence soon. David Peters has put together a kitchen bench which will be installed after the plumber and carpenter have finished. We are looking to purchase a very small hot water service.

We still require some funds to finish the depot. If you can help in anyway please contact Dave Peters who has taken over the depot project from David Pye. David Pye needs to concentrate on the Eucalyptus Arboretum.

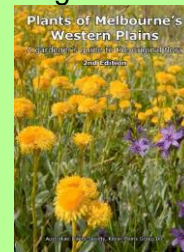
Contributions to help build the Arboretum: If you or anyone you know is willing to contribute please contact David Pye or John Bentley. The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment. We need things for the depot and shed. We do need to raise funds to fit-out 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

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains 2nd Ed.

FMBG have purchased a number of copies of this excellent book which was released in August 2012.

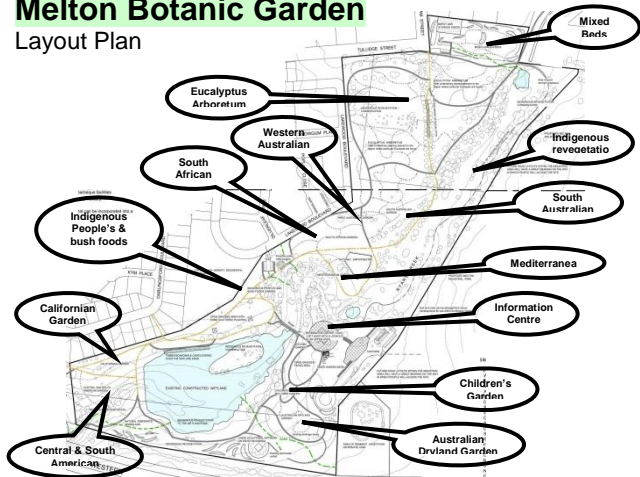


This book is available to purchase from Margaret Peters on 5367 3328
\$15 members, \$20 non-members

It is an excellent resource for members and you might like to purchase it as Christmas present for someone.

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 had 206 members in 2011-2012. So please try to sign up a new member to help us keep a strong membership base.

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.

2013 Calendar

We are underway to confirming all the speakers for meetings and planning trips for 2013. **If you have any suggestions for speakers 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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