



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter January / February 2013

Growing Plants Growing People

No.24

## FMBG celebrates 10 years during 2013



*Eucalyptus Synandra - Eucalyptus Arboretum Eastern Section - Feb 2013* ©Photo by Barb & David Pye

### February Events

**Clean Up Day:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10am-noon.  
Meet at MBG Depot (William Street).

**FMBG February Meeting:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> at  
6.30pm. Free BBQ and walk at the Melton Botanic  
Garden - Walk host: Tony Herwerth MCC.

**Grow the Garden Day:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon  
meet at the Melton Botanic Garden Depot

### March Events

**Clean Up Australia Day:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am-noon at  
the MBG Depot then lunch at Hannah Watts Park.

**FMBG March Meeting:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Guest Speaker on "The value of bees"

**FMBG Social Dinner:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm

**Grow the Garden Day:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon  
meet at the Melton Botanic Garden Depot

**Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**  
Wed – Sunday 20-24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Exhibition Buildings -  
FMBG hanging basket on display

### Regular Activity Groups

\***Gumnuts:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum

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

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



**FMBG Patron**  
**Jane Edmanson OAM**

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30pm**

**BBQ and walk**

**Melton Botanic Garden**

A free BBQ at the Depot and a tour by Tony Herwerth  
of the indigenous exclusion plot



Meet at the Depot near the  
corner of William and Tullidge Streets

For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

**"Leaders in Sustainability  
2011"**



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards

**"Best Community or Not for  
Profit Organisation 2102"**

### FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue (Mar-Nov)

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.

## 2013 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FMBG

FMBG turns 10 this year. Look how we have grown and what has been achieved.

We have a great meeting speaker program to help us celebrate throughout the year.

On September 15 we will have an Open Day to celebrate the occasion.

## Renew Your Membership



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

Current membership is just over 170

**Please ensure you have renewed  
and try to sign up a friend**

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

### Bunnings Sausage Sizzle January

With a good number of volunteers throughout the day and a slow but steady flow of customers we raised a profit of \$863

Great work and thanks to everyone who helped.

### Unexpected Visitor - *Vulpes vulpes*

Dave Peters got a surprise one morning whilst working at the depot. A fox wandered by and casually trotted off to the area at the back of the Melton Home Timber and Hardware store. It was either going home or looking for a rabbit for breakfast.

### Clean Up Australia

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

We meet at the depot at 10am for a big effort and hopefully will be joined by other members of the community

You can register online

<http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/get-involved/>  
Please contact Janet Dyke (9743 2733)

### Eucalyptus synandra

In the eastern section of the Eucalyptus Arboretum you can find Eucalyptus synandra which started flowering in January (see photo on page 1).



Eucalyptus synandra is uncommon in the wild and in cultivation. It is a tall shrub or small tree of mallee (multi-stemmed) habit growing up to 5-6 metres tall. The leaves are linear to narrowly elliptic in shape about 200 mm long. The smooth bark is greyish and is shed annually. Flowers are very conspicuous and are initially white but age to deep pink or red with the stamens being united into a tube for the lower portion of the flowers. Flowering occurs in late spring and summer.

To date this species has not been cultivated to any great extent, however, this is certain to change as the plant becomes better known. It is a spectacular small tree for drier climates, ideally suited to average sized gardens. The plant appears to be reasonably cold-tolerant and has flowered at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. Soils with reasonable drainage are preferred. A feature of the plant is that it is probably the most precocious of all the eucalypts, sometimes flowering when only 15 cm tall.

Propagation is from seed which germinates readily.

Is there a place for it in your garden?

You can also try growing it in a pot.

Source: <http://anpsa.org.au/e-syn.html>

### FMBG 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2013

We are planning for our 10th anniversary celebrations and the open day. If you would like to help in the planning for the open day celebration and events throughout the year please let John or Jill know.

### Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Visits the Melton Botanic Garden

In December FMBG members and Trudy Martin from MCC met with Chris Cole, Director RBGM and Michael McNabb, Manager, Horticulture RBGM. We hosted a tour of the botanic garden, followed by morning tea and a discussion about the group and its working with the community and council. They were with us for three hours.

Chris said in a follow-up email *"It was great to meet the team in December, their energy and can-do attitude is commendable. The garden has great beginnings, still a long way to go, but I'm sure a very positive future"*.

All these visits will help with future tourism, even more visits by groups, getting the garden known and making connections for future assistance and sharing. Many people have expressed interest in collecting seed from the Eucalyptus Arboretum for propagation.



Chris, Michael and FMBG members



Chris Cole and John Bentley



Michael McNabb and Barb Pye

### Call for tools

Do you have any useable tools that you can donate to FMBG?



We are seeking tools such as saws, hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrenches, spanners, spirit levels, tape measures etc. and even power tools (but only if they are in a good, safe and working condition).

Please contact John Bentley if you have any tools that you can donate – 9743 3819

### Eucalyptus Tree Labels

Thanks to Alan and Jean Partridge's organisation and efforts 80 new eucalypt tree labels were ordered, metal backed, holes drilled, screws purchased and then attached to trees in early February. Well done! The MBG now looks much more botanic. The labels were able to be purchased from the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens through a Melton City Council Environment Grant of \$1,000.

### Toilets

The toilets should be open to the public very soon.



## Geocache in the MBG



The sport of Geocaching began in 2000 when Dave Ulmer hid the first cache and posted the GPS coordinates on the Internet, calling it "Great American GPS Stash Hunt". Today Geocaches can be found almost everywhere. To find these caches you need a GPS unit or a smart phone with GPS and the coordinates where they are hidden. When you find a cache you take an item and leave one in its place, and also sign the register ([www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)).

Go to <http://www.geocaching.com> and enter the postcode 3337 and look for the heading "Community in Action".

The description says:

*Location here is truly a changing feature as locals continue to grow the Botanical Gardens throughout the years. Great display of what a community in action can bring about. I would like to share this special place with all. Take a little time to look around you will see why I am part of this action too.*

*A great place to wander around and admire the amount of work that has gone into this wonderful asset for Melton. In years to come the wildlife that will flourish as the plants take off will be worth seeing.*

Comments from some people who have found the cache (43 people have logged finding it):

- *Thank you for bringing us to this part of Melton. Now I know Melton has a Botanic Garden. Very pleasant. Hope the plants get a chance to grow.*
- *A quick find after attending the intervening days get together. A little different from other botanical gardens I have been to. Give it a few more years and a few more native plants and this could become a great place.*
- *It is great to see the hard work of a community in action coming to fruition. The post drought concept of botanic gardens is somewhat different to the image we carry from the past. It is indeed interesting to think how this area might look in 100 years time. Satellites today had our GZ 7m north east of where we found the cache.*
- *Whilst our caching with The 2 Wanderers, we enjoyed finding this cache in such a lovely treed area that will improve with time. Our first visit to the Melton Botanical Gardens - much appreciated.*
- *Nice work in progress here!*
- *Its been interesting to see how Melton has changed over the years and its great to see new plants and gardens being established for the community to enjoy*
- *Surprised by a botanical in Melton. Nice to see and will be even better in the following years.*
- *It's great when the community get behind a project like this. We have a similar thing in Gisborne along Jackson's Creek.*
- *What a nice quiet place. I sat down and listened to the birds. I can see a lot of hard work have been done, will look great in years to come. Thank you for this find. I will be back in the future for a longer walk.*

Many thanks to fluffyrabbit113 (RB) who started the cache. *Do you think you can find it?*

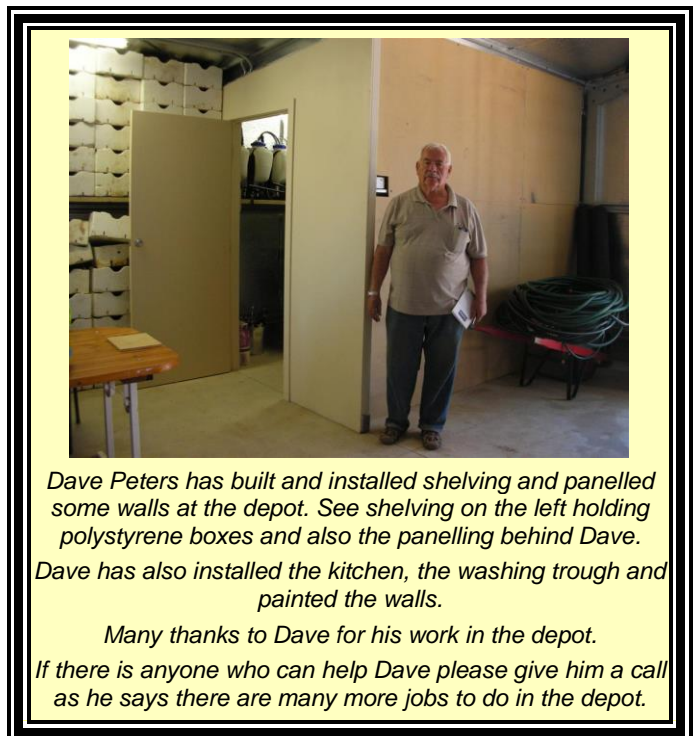
## Meetings with Councillors – pre budget

This year the Melton City Council has involved the community earlier than previous years by actively providing an opportunity to hear from the community on their ideas and thoughts for Council's 2013/14 budget. Councillors and staff were on-hand for informal talks throughout the day on Saturday 4 February. John and Jill Bentley attended on behalf of FMBG to discuss our ideas and raise the need for recurrent funding in the MCC budget for the Melton Botanic Garden.

We also have an upcoming briefing to MCC in March.



*The Executive at the FMBG Planning Day in January*



*Dave Peters has built and installed shelving and panelled some walls at the depot. See shelving on the left holding polystyrene boxes and also the panelling behind Dave. Dave has also installed the kitchen, the washing trough and painted the walls.*

*Many thanks to Dave for his work in the depot. If there is anyone who can help Dave please give him a call as he says there are many more jobs to do in the depot.*

### CVGT Teams

CVGT has committed two teams to the Melton Botanic Garden for 2013. This will allow a greater range of activities to be undertaken in the botanic garden including propagation. The new leader is Tara.

So far the teams have been involved in watering, completing the formwork for the bench seat bases in preparation for concreting, propagation and potting up activities.



Tara the new team leader for the CVGT teams seen here making use of the depot kitchen. We have a fridge, microwave, kettle and a toaster.



CVGT potted up these plants in February and many of these were propagated by the team in 2012 – well done

### Lakers



Purple loosestrife flowering along the lake wall. This work is being done by the Lakers group every second Tuesday. CVGT teams will be helping more this year on this project. This project was funded by a Melbourne Water grant in 2012. We have been successful in gaining a grant for 2013 to be able to continue the lake indigenous revegetation.

### FMBG Bus Trip

A bus load of FMBG and Melton Garden Club members visited Attila Kappitany's Garden and Kurunga Native Nursery in November.



Attila Kappitany's Garden – using stones from the site



Attila Kappitany's Garden – Succulent display



Thanks to Dave and Margaret Peters who have donated a brand new BBQ and gas bottle for use at the depot.



The November bus trippers

## Meeting & Group Reports by Les and Elaine Monthly Meeting - 14 November 2012

Our guest speaker was Bruce Fordyce and he spoke about his travels in America.

His talk was very interesting and entertaining with great photographs. He talked about Mt Rushmore where the Presidents of USA are carved into the mountain, spoke in great lengths about Las Vegas and told us about the other states he visited. If you plan to go to the USA see Bruce.

Insurance on the shed will be between \$800 and \$1300pa. We are ensuring we get the best value for money. As reported previously it will cost us over \$4000.00 a year to meet all the expenses for the year.

The Djerriwarrh Festival went well in the sale of plants. Thanks to everyone who helped in selling, erecting the marquees, setting up the stall, and being there during the day. As said before many hands make light work.

2013 will be the anniversary of 10 years that the FMBG has been in operation. At the moment we are looking for a special guest speaker for September. If anyone has any suggestions to this or any other ideas how we can put forward the Gardens to the public, please let the committee know.

## Gumnuts 20 November

Once again weeding took priority. Once the weeding is finished it produces a tremendous look to the plants. We can now see what hard work has achieved. Planting new plants and watering and mulching are continuously being done every fortnight. We require a lot of rain to save the plants. So keep your fingers crossed.

## Ryans Creekers 15 November

During the past fortnight, slashing the grass occurred. This highlighted our plants and trees. We can now see them. A great lot were still

surviving. Continual weeding is carried out each Thursday. Watering in is compulsory as well as mulching. This helps to keep the weeds away and hopefully gives the plants a chance to grow. The creekers had a Christmas lunch to talk about the 2013 plan.

## Council meeting 15 November

Around 20 FMBG members attended the Council meeting to give support to the following motion being put forward by Cr Broden Borg:

*That Council recognise the iconic nature of the Melton Botanic Gardens and commit an annual recurrent allocation of funding to the gardens commencing at \$50,000 per annum to be reviewed annually by Council, and that a Terms of Reference Agreement be developed with the Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens committing to this funding being used solely for development of the Melton Botanic Gardens site.*

Sadly it was defeated but a motion was then presented by Cr Sophie Ramsey and Deputy Mayor Cr Bob Turner:

*That Council recognise the iconic nature of the Melton Botanic Gardens and that consideration of committing an annual recurrent allocation of funding to the Melton Botanic Gardens commencing at \$50,000 per annum to be reviewed annually by Council, be deferred for further consideration during the 2013/2014 budget deliberations.*

This motion was passed.

## Depot

The shed now has power. Many thanks to Dave Peters for his work as Depot Project Manager – The security system is operational.

We are seeking some additional funds to create a nursery area in the depot so the CVGT team and volunteers can undertake propagation in 2013.

If you can help in anyway with the depot please contact Dave Peters, Depot Project Manager (5367 3328).

## Eucalyptus Arboretum

David Pye organised a volunteer watering roster for the summer period. There have been a good number of volunteers to provide a watering team on each of the days. The CVGT team since their commencement in late January have assisted with watering. MCC have also watered in the arboretum and the lake, in areas where we cannot reach with hoses. It has been an exceptionally dry summer period following a dry spring. Some plants and grasses have not survived. However, it is pleasing to see the trees and some larger shrubs doing well. We are reconsidering the understory plant selection.

**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 complete the shed fit-out and the nursery.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**End of year celebration**

We had a great end of year celebration at Tony and Janet Dyke's place. Good conversation and catching up as usual.



Arriving



Snacks



Good food



Healthy discussions



Yum yum



Wow! Some young people



Friendship



Goodbye from the balcony

**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.

**Executive Committee**

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

**Botanical Illustration Group**

The Botanical Illustration group aims to bring people together from the arts and ecology fields to help each other learn new skills.

No skills required, just a good attitude!

There is no 'teacher' they just help each other.

Here are the dates for the first four botanical illustration meet up events:

Melton - Mac Cottage, Willows Historic Park, Reserve Road, Melton - Thursday 7th Feb, 6pm - 8pm

Brimbank - Cairnlea Community Hub - Carmody Drive, Cairnlea - Thursday 21st Feb, 6pm - 8pm

Melton - Mac Cottage - Willows Historic Park, Reserve Road, Melton - Thursday 7th March, 6pm - 8pm

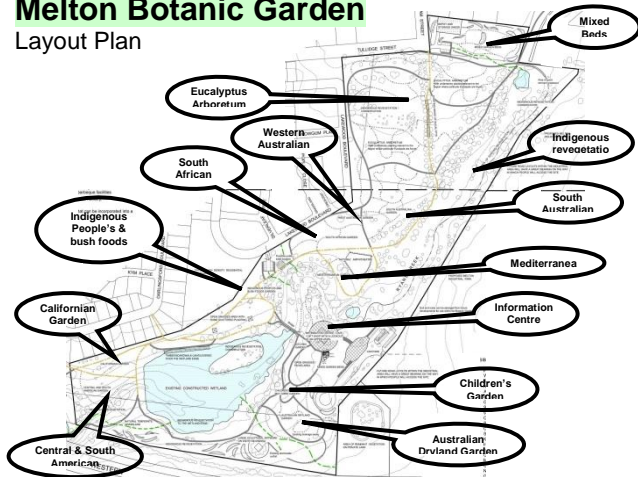
Brimbank - Cairnlea Community Hub - Carmody Drive, Cairnlea - Thursday 21st March, 6pm - 8pm

Amanda brings the starter equipment. However, if you are already involved in art and have a preferred media please bring it along.

Please contact Amanda Dodd by email if you are interested  
amanda\_dodd@live.com.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 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](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.

**2013 Calendar**

The calendar is available. We have confirmed nearly all the speakers for meetings and trips for 2013.

**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](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)

**FMBG can give presentations to groups as well as host guided tours of the garden**

If you have stories or photographs from



**Newsletter:**

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Email: [editor@fmbg.org.au](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

activities in the Melton Botanic Garden please send them to: [editor@fmbg.org.au](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

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