



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter March / April 2013

Growing Plants Growing People

No.25

FMBG celebrating 10 years during 2013



MBG Depot - April 2013 ©Photo John Bentley

May Events

- FMBG May Meeting:** Wednesday 8th 7.30pm.
APS Plant Sale: Saturday 18th Australian Plant Society - FMBG Stall - at Bacchus Marsh from 9am
Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 24th 10am-noon meet at the Melton Botanic Garden Depot

June Events

- Clean Up Day:** Sunday 9th 10am-noon. Meet at MBG Depot (William Street).
FMBG June Meeting: Wednesday 12th 7.30pm
 Guest Speaker Liz Bennetto – Wathaurong people and plants for food, medicine, tools, weapons, containers and more.
FMBG Social Dinner: Friday 21st 6.30pm
Grow the Garden Day: Sunday 23rd 10am-noon meet at the Melton Botanic Garden Depot
Bird Watching: Sunday 30th 9am with Daryl Akers

Regular Activity Groups

- ***Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-noon Eucalyptus Arboretum
 ***Lakers:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – Meet at the Lake
 ***Creekers:** Thursdays 10am-noon – Meet Depot/Ryans Creek



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"

Wednesday 8th May 7.30pm

Barb Pye – Australian Plants

DJ Cunningham Centre

Barb Pye is going to give a presentation on Australian Plants

Barb is President of the Australian Plants Society Melton and Bacchus Group



Barb (centre of photo in blue) showing FMBG members the plants in the Eucalyptus Arboretum
 For information contact Janet Dyke: 9743 2733

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.

For the JUNE meeting only due to renovations at the DJ Cunningham Centre we will hold the meeting at the Blackwood Drive Hall (Former Guide Hall), Blackwood Drive (off Thomas Ave), Melton South.

FMBG Patron
Jane Edmansson OAM



Executive Committee

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

2013

10th Anniversary of FMBG

FMBG turns 10 this year.

Look how we have grown and what we have achieved.

September is the 10th Anniversary of holding the first Public Forum to consider forming a friends group and developing a botanic garden in Melton.

On September 15 we will have an Open Day, Beth Gott is a special guest speaker on the use of Australian Plants by Aboriginals at the FMBG meeting on 10 September and we will have a 10th Anniversary Dinner on Friday 27 September to celebrate the occasion.

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.

APS Keilor Plains Group Visit to MBG



Members of Australian Pant Society Keilor Plains Group visited the Melton Botanic garden on Saturday 9 March. FMBG hosted a morning tea followed by a guided tour. The group at lunch at the depot.

Renew Your Membership



We had 206 members on 30 June 2012

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

Current membership is just over 180

New members joining after 30 April will hold their membership until 30 June 2014

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

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show



FMBG had a display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show held 20-24 March. Thanks to all members who helped on the display during the show. The show attracted over 100,000 visitors and is ranked in the top five flower shows in the world. We had quite a number of enquiries.

We also had a basket in the RHSV Hanging Basket competition. Unfortunately we did not win but one of our members received second prize for their basket in the competition.

Mayor Visits MBG



On a very hot Tuesday 12 March Kathy Majdlik, Melton City Mayor visited the Melton Botanic Garden. A group of Friends and Tara the CVGT Team Supervisor hosted Kathy on a tour of the Garden. We were very privileged to have Kathy visit for one and half hours and she went away very impressed by what is being achieved.

Clean Up Australia

We had just over 20 helpers at the clean up on Sunday 3 March. This was followed by a free lunch sponsored by Melton City Council and cooked by the Rotary Club of Melton Members



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

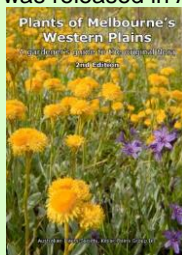
Do you have a shed for the Depot?



We are in need of a garden shed(s) for the depot. Do you have one in good condition that you could donate?

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 a present for someone.

MBG Public Toilets

The toilets are open to the public. FMBG have also been provided with a key. We will be using the storage area in the toilets.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon megalocarpa

David and Barb Pye have donated and installed a number of labels in the Eucalyptus Arboretum.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'megalocarpa' (red flowering yellow gum – see photo below taken in the South Western section of the Eucalyptus Arboretum in March) is a small-medium tree growing quickly to its mature size of around 5-6 (and may be 10) metres. 'Megalocarpa' means 'big flowers'. Highly adaptable to a range of sites including alkaline and sandy soils. It is useful as a specimen tree, as a windbreak, and to attract native birds. This is a very reliable plant well suited for rural planting where a low growing windbreak tree is required.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'megalocarpa' has an abundance of attractive pink flowers during late winter and spring, and continues flowering for a long period.

Source: www.eranurseries.com.au

Introducing Tara Heels CVGT Team Supervisor



Tara Heels, Work Experience Supervisor, Melton, CVGT Australia Ltd manages the two CVGT teams from Monday to Thursday at the Melton Botanic Garden.

Tara has three quarters completed a Bachelor of Applied Science and Horticulture at Burnley Horticultural College and has completed many management short courses.

Tara started her first part-time job at Wombat Gully plant farm with a view to becoming an accountant. She soon discovered that her love was not numbers but the plants (luckily for FMBG). Tara has worked in a variety of retail nurseries, including Poyntons Nursery and Garden Centre and Mitre 10. She has worked on landscaping projects and golf course maintenance. Tara's most recent position before joining CVGT was at Ambius an indoor plant hire and commercial garden maintenance company where she managed a team of 10 horticultural staff across Victoria, as well as providing the service training for Australia and New Zealand. Tara spent the last 9 years there, and initially started as a part-time service technician.

Tara brings to the Melton Botanic Garden extensive plant knowledge, pest and disease identification and management.

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.

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

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

Depot Update

Dave Peters is continuing to be hard at work in the Depot. Most recently he has painted the floor in the meeting, kitchen and toilet areas. The concrete path leading to the small entry door has been laid and is being used.



Inside shed showing the grey painted floor



Freshly laid concrete path

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

Your Own FMBG Name Badge

Have you seen members wearing their FMBG 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.

Monthly Meeting - 13 March 2013

Our guest speaker was Lynne Bowler on the topic of "The Value of Bees."

Lynne was thoroughly enjoyable. What you didn't know about bees, she filled you in with all the details. I as well as the rest of us learned a lot about their nature, lifestyle, hives and the production of honey. Lynne spoke about the natural enemies the bees, the infiltration of overseas bees and the effect they have on the hives. Also we got to taste the honey which she produces at Bullengarook. Altogether it was a very good night.

The committee produced a thorough presentation to the Melton City Council with the aim of obtaining a recurrent budget allocation of \$50,000 in the MCC budget towards the Melton Botanic Garden development. Let's hope that MCC sets this aside in the 2013/2014 budget.

Congratulations are in order to Dave Peters and Myles Bentley for their appointment to the Executive Committee. Well done. Thanks were given to Allan Benson and Lynn Nardella for all their work on the committee in the past following the announcement of their retirement from the Executive Committee.

We have submitted to Powercor for an excellence award. Keep our fingers crossed. The awards night is on Friday 3rd May.

Monthly Meeting - 10 April 2013

Although we did not have a guest speaker on the night, we still had plenty on the agenda.

First of all we would like to thank The Good Guys for their donation of the urn. It was very much appreciated. Also the grant of \$500 by SPAusnet was announced due to Tony Dykes volunteer work in the MBG.

Also our 10 year celebrations are in progress. A lot more work and planning are necessary to achieve worthwhile results.

Many thanks to Dave for all the work he has put into the shed. Everyone can see the benefits he has done.

Also thanks to CVGT for all the good work they have done to the gardens over the holiday period.

To complete the night, a DVD of National Trust English Gardens was shown. One of the gardens was established before 1813. The owners lived in the mansion which was built before that date. Thinking about it, Australia was still receiving convicts from the mother country. It only goes to show that things built or grown in those days are still with us.

Hopefully we will see the benefit of our work in our lifetime.

Les and Elaine

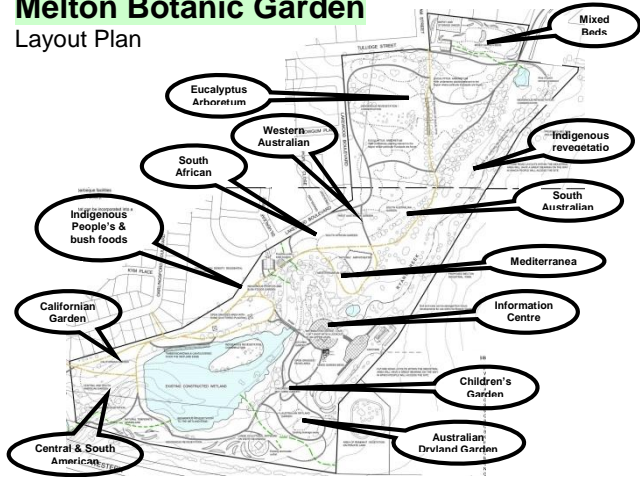
Eucalyptus Arboretum

The understory is looking good. See the Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) below in the east section.



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

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

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)
	Dave Peters
	Corinne Cole
	Myles Bentley
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

activities in the Melton Botanic Garden please send them to: editor@fmbg.org.au

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