



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.

Newsletter April 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 31

FMBG Events

April Activities 2015

Date	Time	Event / Activity
1st Wednesday	9.30am-noon	Gumnuts All welcome
2nd Thursday	9.30am-noon	Creekers All welcome
7th Tuesday	10am-1pm 10am-noon 3-5pm 7.30pm	Nursery Plant Sales – PAG working at Depot MBG Working Party Presentation to Mt Macedon Horticultural Society J and Jill Bentley
8th Wednesday	7.30pm	FMBG Monthly Meeting
9th Thursday	9.30am-noon	Creekers All welcome
11th Saturday	9am-4pm	Geelong APS Plant *
12th Sunday	9am-4pm 10am-noon 2pm-4pm	Geelong APS Plant MBG Clean Up Day Diggers Rest Garden Tour
13th Monday	11am-12.30pm	Year 11 VCAL Tour
14th Tuesday	10am-noon 10am-1pm	Lakers All welcome Nursery Plant Sales
15th Wednesday	9am-4pm 9.30am-noon	BGANZ Network Meeting Bendigo BG Gumnuts All welcome
16th Thursday	9.30am-noon	Creekers All welcome
19th Sunday	10am-1pm+?	Maroondah APS Garden Tour
20th Monday	7.30pm	Executive Meeting
21st Tuesday	10am-noon 10am-1pm	Lakers All welcome Nursery Plant Sales
22nd Wednesday	7.30pm	Presentation to Preston Garden Club
23rd Thursday	9.30am-noon 10am-noon	Creekers All welcome Melton Tourism Meeting John Bentley
26th Sunday	10am-noon 10am-Noon	Grow the Garden Day Setting up stand at International Flower and Garden Show Assistance required*
28th Tuesday	10am-1pm 3-4pm	Nursery Plant Sales – Liaison Meeting with Adrian Cope MCC
30th Thursday	9.30am-noon	Creekers All welcome *

*If you are able to assist please contact John on 9743 3819; 0412 762 531; friends@fmbg.org.au;

*On Total Fire Ban or inclement weather days, events may be cancelled

*Most activities are at the Melton Botanic Garden Depot – 21 Williams Street, Melton •

*Monthly Meetings – Arnolds Creek Community Centre, 19 Claret Ash Blvd Melton West Vic 3337



Category Winner

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013

sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV



Winner 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards



Winner 2012 Powercor Shire of Melton Business Excellence Awards



FMBG Patron

Jane Edmanson OAM

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm at the Bentley's house

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

Join us at our new meeting venue at Arnolds Creek Community Centre 19 Claret Ash Blvd, Melton West Vic 3337

Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

***Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Wednesday 10am-noon

Eucalyptus Arboretum – meet at Depot

***Lakers:** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon – Meet at the Lake

***Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon – Meet at Depot

***Odd Jobbers:** Tuesdays & Thursdays - Meet at Depot

*New **Southern African Group** is working out when to meet

After a virtual drought conditions in 2014 we had a rainy beginning to Summer. Very much appreciated. John Bentley advises we had 38.6mm from 3-7 December. If we get the expected very hot summer we will be in for a lot of watering.

Christmas Breakup at the Dykes

FMBG members held their 2014 Christmas Breakup at Janet and Tony Dykes home in Strathulloh.



Many thanks to Janet and Tony for use of their home.

Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Plant Usage Garden

Paths in the Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Plant Usage Garden have been completed. Final topping laid today in an inspiring effort by FMBG volunteers and the CVGT Team in hot and windy conditions - Great work everyone and thanks to Bunnings for lending us their compactor.



The path topping has been completed in the Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Plant Usage Garden (VVPAPUG). We used all the topping material and made it cover the whole path and also had just enough to put some in front of the toilet block on the south side of the garden so that the paths flow together better.

It was an inspiring effort today by FMBG volunteers and the CVGT Team in hot and windy conditions - Great work done by everyone and we also thank Bunnings for lending us their compactor. Some photos are attached to show the finished paths – more photos are available on Facebook.

The plants in the VVPAPUG are also doing well and many of the grassland plants are flowering and grasses seeding. However, the weeds are growing due to recent rains so if you would be part of a team to help maintain this garden or to work on it in your own time please let me know.

The major funding and inspiration for this project was from the Lions Club of Melton.

This garden has really improved the area around the toilets, added a new garden to the MBG, provided education value as people are now asking and taking about Aboriginal plant use and it helps the conservation of Victorian Volcanic Plains flora.

Garden Grant



GARDEN GRANT: Melton's Botanic Garden will be protected against hot summers thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Metropolitan Organics Fund and the Back to Earth Initiative. Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden president John Bentley, pictured with Elaine Neely, Jill Bentley and Melton mayor Sophie Ramsey, said with the grant they hoped to develop a new southern African garden bed.

Gardens going global

By Sumeyya Ilanbey

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of Melton, friends of the city's botanic gardens are enjoying their sanctuary.

"The Garden" has come a long way since 2003, when the Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens first formed.

"The whole garden has been built by volunteers," group president John Bentley said. "And everyone is telling us how much they like and appreciate what we do."

Mr Bentley said a section of the gardens, dubbed the Victorian Volcanic Plains, had a particular theme and was coming together nicely.

"All the plants selected in that garden have a known Aboriginal use, whether it be for food or weaving," he said. "The garden respects indigenous culture but it also attracts birds to the area. Finches like the grass, there are honey-eaters; and the other day I saw a musk lorikeet feeding on the eucalyptus flower."

And thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Metropolitan Organics Fund and the Back to Earth Initiative (backed by 11 councils), the garden will be protected long into the future.

The grant will go towards developing new garden beds and planting that will showcase the benefits of using compost recycled from Melton council's green waste collections.

There are already central and southern American, Californian, Australian and Mediterranean plants in the garden.

"With this grant we plan to develop even more garden beds, including an exciting new southern African bed," Mr Bentley said.

He said the garden operated on a "low-water-usage approach," which meant there were no lush or "green" plants.

To volunteer, call 9743 3819.



Friends of the Botanic Gardens members John and Jill Bentley, Geraldine Kelly and Janet Dyke. (Wayne Hawkins)

Motor Bikes!!!

Off road motorbikes are a perennial problem in Melton's public places, green spaces and playgrounds.

As Nora observes:

'There were three there on Saturday and riding all around on the far side and then later passed Pete sitting in the car park!'

Separation Link Forged

A Separation Tree sapling from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne planted in Melton Botanic Garden by the City of Melton Mayor Sophie Ramsay.

MELTON



John Bentley and Melton Mayor Sophie Ramsey plant a sapling from the ancient Separation Tree at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in the Melton Botanic Gardens. Picture: DAVID SMITH

Separation link forged

MELTON Council last week planted a sapling from the ancient Separation Tree from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

The sapling was planted in the Melton Botanic Gardens by Mayor Sophie Ramsey, as well as representatives from the Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens.

Cr Ramsey said it was exciting to have an important part of the state's history in the botanic gardens.

"I look forward to seeing this special tree flourish for members of our community to appreciate and enjoy for generations to come," she said.

The Separation Tree has

been growing at its present site at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens for 350 years, pre-dating European settlement by 200 years.

The tree gained its name when Victoria was announced as a separated state from NSW on November 15, 1850 by the then Lieutenant Governor Charles LaTrobe.

EASTER RAFFLE



LYN AND Phil were winners of the Easter Raffle Many thanks to Don Nardella MLA for donating the prize

Melbourne International Garden and Flower Show

John Bentley reported on the successful exhibit at the Melbourne International Garden and Flower Show

'Lots of interest in our FMBG display and Melton Botanic Garden today. Great work this morning Kev and Lyn. Attily Kapitany visited last Wednesday and said in an email afterward "your stand at the Show was excellent" and he also liked our hanging basket.'



Hot off the press

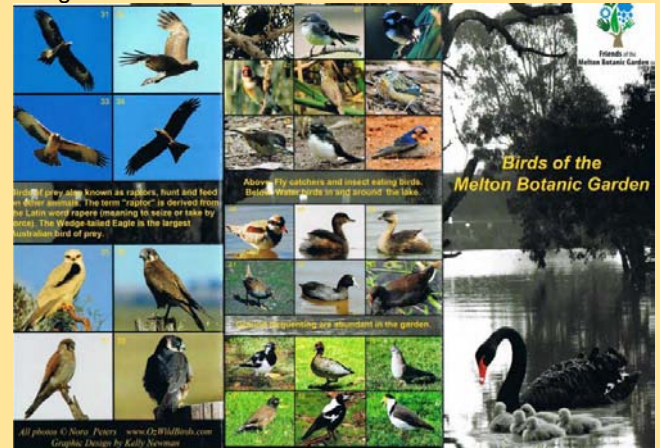
Birds of the Melton Botanic Garden brochure

A partial scan of the brochure is attached and the brochure itself looks great

The full brochure is 8 panels, so the scan misses out the panels with the name of each bird - you can pick one up when you visit the MBG to get a copy of the brochure

The brochure has been made possible through receiving a City of Melton Environmental Grant in June 2014 and the work of FMBG members Nora, Kelly and Geraldine

Many thanks go to Nora Peters, Kelly Newman and Geraldine Kelly for the photos, information, artwork and design of the brochure



John Bentley reports that we are getting good comments about the Birds of the Melton Botanic Garden brochure

Geraldine's bird sightings at MBG

Geraldine Kelly did her regular survey of the birds in the Melton Botanic Garden.

Here is what Geraldine reported: "Just did the survey for the gardens saw a Hoary-headed Grebe on the lake, The Giant Egret was still there as well as a couple of Great Cormorants and Little black Cormorants. There were lots of Little Lorikeets as well as a few Musk lorikeets. I saw the 3 juvenile Dusky Woodswallows. The Willie Wagtail nest has been abandoned and the 3 chicks were sitting on the fence near by being fed by the busy parents, otherwise nothing unusual"

Nora's bird sightings at MBG

Hi all, after all that rain I went to check on the Wagtail Wagtail nest, three beauties sleeping (used my big lens) with mum and dad flitting around and then sitting on the wire to glare at me J on the way there saw the Musk Lorikeets again (took this one a couple of days ago) the Pacific Black Duck family still in the top pond but I saw 5 babies today. A pair of Wood Ducks were in the concrete drain. On the way back I found this Magpie-lark juvie calling out to its parents, they didn't come so it stayed where it was beside the pond. Rainbow Lorikeet gave me the big stare ("don't come any closer").... I thought that I had seen a Pelican on the lake so went around, two Little Black Cormorants on the tree in the middle and when I got to the Pelican I didn't like the angles I was getting, a bit boring! Then a surprise a Great Egret was about to land on the tree

that the Pelican was resting on and then it spotted me and veered off, only to land on the tree with the Little Back Cormorants..... Caption for this photo is "Ouch!"I got quite a few flight shots in between as it couldn't make up its mind which tree to land on! Do hope you all enjoy! (No Snipe spotted today and no Rufous Songlark, might have moved on to Pinkerton or Eynesbury!)

Other birds: - Red-rumped Parrots, Noisy Miners, Red Wattlebirds, White-plumed Honeyeaters, S/T Dove, Dusky Woodswallows, Welcome Swallows, Mynas, Blackbirds, Magpies, Little Ravens, Purple Swamphens and I heard the Reed Warblers singing in the Cumbungi and no Motor Bikies!!! There were three there on Saturday and riding all around on the far side and then later passed Pete sitting in the car park!



The MBG is fast becoming the top bird habitat, & bird watching site, in Melton.

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales



Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, or other times by appointment

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery, 21 Williams Street, Melton

Native plants grown in the Melton Botanic Garden
A range of plants including Eremophila and Eucalyptus varieties

Plants suited to growing in Melton gardens
Some decorative succulents

Forestry tubes, 70 mm pots and 90 mm pots, for \$2, \$3 and \$5:

www.fmbg.org.au or friends@fmbg.org.au

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 had 206 members in 2011-2012 and 218 members in 2013/14 and getting close in 2014/15.

Please help to sign up a new member to keep up a strong membership base.

Single-\$10, Single concession or student-\$5,
Household/Concession-\$20/\$10, Associate-\$20,
Corporate-\$50

The Membership/Renewal form on 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.

For membership information please contact: Jill Bentley 9743 3819 for information or to drop in a payment. If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form or see the website

FMBG Corporate Members

Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

2 Holland Drive, Melton, VIC 3337
Phone: (03) 9971 4444
www.alanmancenissan.com.au

Aquarium Leasing Specialists

Manager: John Candy
Phone: 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338
aquarium@westnet.com.au

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph: (03) 9743 5033
Managers Brad & Scott Morten

Callea Pearce Lawyers

MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
Web: www.calleapearce.com.au

Everite Garden Supplies

19 Melton Valley Drive
Melton Victoria
Phone: 9743 6021
office@everitegs.com.au

Lampe Family Lawyers

Level 4/326 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 9326 3811
Fax: (03) 9326 4344
Web: www.lampe.com.au
Email: enquiries@lampe.com.au
Ph: (03) 9746 6479

Satellite City Furniture & Bedding

358 High Street Melton, VIC, 3337
Ph: 03 9743 4749 or 9743 6205

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Ph (03) 9747 0855 Fax 9747 9593
<http://www.westernland.com.au>;

Melton Toyota

143-147 High Street, Melton, Vic, 3337
Ph: (03) 8746 0300

Melton Produce

38-42 Brooklyn Road, Melton South, Vic. 3338
Ph (03) 9743 5201
Manager: Peter Earl

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337 Manager:
Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.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
	Anne Langmaid
	Vacant position
Safety Officer:	John Bentley & Dave Peters
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) / Daryl Akers
Email: editor@fmbg.org.au

Facebook and Twitter Fans

If you use Facebook and/or Twitter you may want to keep up with information via the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Group. Type "Melton Botanic Garden" into the search box and you should

