



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.

Newsletter May 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 32

FMBG Events

May Activities 2015

1st Friday

6.30pm Westwaters Business Excellence Awards. FMBG is a finalist **WE WON!!**

2nd Saturday 9.00am-1pm Native Plant Sale – FMBG sale table Uniting Church, Bacchus Marsh All welcome Assistance required*

5th Tuesday

10am-1pm Nursery Open for Plant Sales – Nursery Team All welcome

10am-noon PAG working at Depot PAG helpers

10-11.30am B2E Organics Tour – Metro Parks and Gardens staff John and MCC

6th Wednesday 9.30am-noon Gumnuts All welcome

7th Thursday 9.30am-noon Creekers All welcome

10th Sunday 10am-noon Nursery Open for Plant Sales D & M Peters

12th Tuesday

10am-noon Lakers All welcome

10am-1pm Nursery Open for Plant Sales – Nursery Team All welcome

13th Wednesday 7.30pm FMBG Monthly Meeting – Fungi by Cathy Powers All welcome

14th Thursday 9.30am-noon Creekers All welcome

17th Sunday 9.30am-5pm Field Trip – Geelong BG and Roraima \$10/head FMBG Members

18th Monday 7.30pm Executive Committee Meeting

19th Tuesday

10am-noon Lakers All welcome

10am-1pm Nursery Open for Plant Sales – Nursery Team All welcome

1-2pm MCC FMBG Liaison Meeting with Adrian Cope MCC Offices - JB's

20th Wednesday 9.30am-noon Gumnuts

21st Thursday 9.30am-noon Creekers All welcome

22nd Fri Work Experience Activity Western Region Forum

24th Sunday 10am-noon Grow the Garden Day and Nursery Open. All welcome

26th Tuesday

10am-1pm Nursery Open for Plant Sales – Nursery Team All welcome

3-5pm MBG Working Party - WP Members

28th Thursday 9.30am-noon Creekers All welcome

29th Friday 10am-noon Reconciliation Week MBG Guided Tour All welcome and Assistance required*

Tues and Thurs mornings in May 9.30am-Noon Planting and weeding the Southern African Trial Beds. All welcome Assistance required

*If you are able to assist please contact John on 9743 3819 or 0412 762 531 or email 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

***Lakers:** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon

***Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon

***Odd Jobbers:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

Meet at Depot for all activities

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays 10.00am-1.00pm, 2nd & 4th Sunday 10am-noon 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 \$2, 70mm pots \$3 and 90mm pots \$5

**Melton Business Excellence Awards 2015
Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens win
Matchworks Community Enterprise Award**

On May Day 2015 (Friday 1st May) Friends of Melton Botanic Garden won the WestWaters Hotel City of Melton Business Excellence Award for the Matchworks Best Community Enterprise Business Award.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden and Friends of Toolern Creek were finalists for this award.

The WestWaters Hotel City of Melton Business Excellence Awards is a prestigious event celebrating the contribution that local business makes to our regional economy, environment and community'

'The awards play an important part in lifting the overall profile of the City of Melton, raising awareness of our businesses for the economic benefit of all residents'

MC of the event was the well-known and outspoken ABC presenter Virginia Trioli.



John Bentley accepting award



Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens admiring the Business Excellence Award



MC Virginia Trioli



The award

Friends of Melton Botanic Garden have won a Business Excellence Award in both 2014 and 2015.

Not to mention the KABV / Sustainability Cities environmental award in 2013 (but we will anyway!)

This award reflects the constant meticulous planning, several years of experience we have painstakingly gained over several years, business skills and a lot of plain hard work!

Two years in a row! We are on a roll!

We received the following comment on Facebook about the botanic garden:

"My friend and I went here last week, really enjoyed the new gardens, can't wait for another 5 years to pass, I think the gardens will look outstanding. Just one small thing though, I saw lots of bat boxes around but nothing for the two species of parrot we saw, red rumps and rosellas. Would love to see some breeding boxes for them. I know feral birds might be a problem though"

The Depot

The inside of the Depot Shed meeting area has been lined by the CVGT team and Centrelink volunteers. Great work and thanks to Dave Peters for organising the work. Phil Newman has been doing a great job supervising and working plus letting people use his tools (a big ask for any man - so many thanks)



Southern African Garden

More planting in the Southern African Trial Beds with 7 species and about 130 plants added by end of April.



Still not much rain this year. However ANZAC weekend brought a good downpour. Hopefully this will be followed by more soon.

Article in the Melton Leader, Tuesday 21st
April 2015, page 16
Well done Margaret.

MELTON



Margaret Peters from the Melton Botanical Garden.

Group seeks volunteers to help nurture garden

MARGARET Peters has her hands full maintaining the gardens at her sprawling property in Hopetoun Park.

But the 66-year-old still likes to get her hands dirty in the Melton Botanical Garden three times a week.

Ms Peters said she joined the Friends of the Melton Botanical Garden more than 11 years ago, to help establish the 25ha oasis.

The grandmother of two said she loved working with the "terrific group of people" at the garden.

"At the start, it was learning about the Australian natives, what will grow in the area, the propagating and starting the nursery," Ms Peters said.

"(Now) it's the friendships I have made, as well as you can see something for your work."

Ms Peters, who is the treasurer, said they were looking to befriend more volunteers.

"We welcome all ages and people of all abilities," she said. "There is a lot of different work people can do, like potting, watering and pruning the plants."

Garden group president John Bentley said volunteers were given tasks to match their ability and interest.

For more information email friends@fmbg.org.au, or phone Mr Bentley on 9743 3819.

Geelong APS Plant Sale

FMBG and Suntuff Natives working together to sell plants at the APS Geelong Plant Sale. Many thanks to Suntuff Natives for allowing us to share their stall.

A great effort by everyone involved as we raised over \$900 from plant sales.



Anne said "I love this photo taken at the Geelong Plant Sale by Jen. I admit we had been on our feet for more than 4 hours at this point."

Even more in the Southern African Garden

Now we have a touch of blue with the *Plumbago auriculata* in the Southern African Trial Beds.



Monthly Meeting 8th April 2015

The monthly meeting mainly consisted of propagation of plants. About 30 of us who attended the meeting got our hands dirty in propagating over 500 plants! These plants will be matured and grown in the Botanic Garden. Others will be sold in the nursery.

John thanked everyone who guided the students from the Bacchus Marsh Grammar School in their recent work in the Garden. A job well done!

The display at the International Flower Show was well received with a lot of enquiries answered. There were many interstate visitors who were unaware of where Melton was situated. A warm thank you is extended to those who assisted in looking after the display.

Lakers, Gumnuts and Creekers are steadily working hard but assistance is still required.
Thank you everyone who attended Clean Up Day on Sunday 12th April.

Elaine and Les



Elaine helping with the plant a seed activity at the Aspire Villawood Open Day in March

Visit to Melton Botanic Garden on 19th April 2015 APS Maroondah group

FMBG received the following letter after the visit:

Dear John

I am writing on behalf of the Committee of the APS Maroondah group to thank your friends, and in particular David, Barbara and Anne, who acted as guides, and offered welcome hospitality in your 'club house'. We were most impressed with the concept, enthusiasm and meticulous attention to the planning and presentation of the garden.

We wish you well in the future and will watch progress with interest.

Yours sincerely

Richard Cameron (President)

We have new stock of a great book for those interested in native plants. On sale at the FMBG Nursery at \$15 to FMBG members and \$20 for non-members



**Plants of
Melbourne's
Western Plains**
Members \$15
Non-members \$20



The Koori Student Group who designed and planted the Koori Student Garden is a finalist in the Young Leaders category at the Sustainable Cities Awards on Friday 12 June

Geraldine's Bird Report for Botanic Garden *Zebra Finches and Golden-headed Cisticola*

27th April 2015

As it gets cooler the number of bird species seen around Melton decreases. The usuals are regularly seen all year round, but in lower numbers, like your Welcome Swallows, Red Wattlebirds and Willie Wagtails. On the other hand I have seen more species like the Eastern Rosella, six on one day, and Dusky Woodswallows; up to 10 on a visit. Duck numbers have varied from 9-10 to only one or two for the three species usually seen at the gardens. Purple Swamphen numbers are still low compared to early last year, which is concerning. On one visit I saw four female Darters and one male fly in and land on one of the dead trees in the large lake to join a Great Cormorant already roosting there.

On my last visit I saw three Zebra Finches down on the creek behind the Depot. Wonderful little birds, I have seen them here twice before in other years.

30th April 2015

Just to let you know that I spotted a Golden-headed Cisticola on Tuesday on my usual walk around the Botanic Gardens. It was down behind the depot on the other side of the creek in long grass close to where I saw the zebra Finches the previous Tuesday. This is the first time I've seen them in Melton. I have seen them at the Werribee Treatment Plant. I did happen to just catch it in a photo which did help identify it.

Geraldine Kelly

A bird watcher from the western suburbs mentioned having visited the garden recently and was highly impressed, both by the garden and by the variety of birds.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

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

Les and Elaine said of their time at the display
"Lots of interest in our FMBG display and Melton Botanic Garden today. Great work this morning Kev and Lyn. Attily Kapitany visited last Wednesday"

Attila said in an email to FMBG *"your stand at the Show was excellent"* and he also liked our hanging basket.

Membership

Membership fees are due by 30 June 2015

Have you renewed your membership or encouraged others to join FMBG?

We welcome all our new members and your membership helps support the development of the botanic garden and we hope you can participate in our activities.

FMBG is local, regional and international. We have members in Switzerland, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, 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 now just over 220 members 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 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.

For membership information please contact Jill Bentley on 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.



*Western Australian and South Australian Display Bed
First plantings May 2015*

FMBG Corporate Members 2014/15

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

Callea Pearce Lawyers

MELTON: 311 High Street, Melton. 9743 1333
BACCHUS MARSH: 127 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh.
5367 2283
WERRIBEE: Ballan House, 1 Duncans Road, Werribee.
8742 6162
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

Melton Home Timber and Hardware

45 Reserve Road, Melton, Vic. 3337
Phone: (03) 9743 5033
Manager: Ken Morton

Melton Produce

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

Melton Toyota

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

Platinum Accounting & Taxation

9 Sheepfold Court, Melton Vic 3337
Phone: (03) 9746 6479
Manager: Corinne Cole
Email: info@platinumaccounting.com.au

Satellite City Furniture

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

Western Land Services

20 Collins Road, Melton, VIC 3337
Phone: (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
	Anne Langmaid
	Jen Eldridge
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 (@Melton_BG) 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 find us.



Saltbushes beside the Lake



Fungi at the base of Eucalypt beside Lake