



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter September 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 35

September Meeting at Melton Library

Public Forum at 7.30pm
The Role of Botanic Gardens in Plant Conservation
John Arnott, Manager Horticulture, Cranbourne
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue Oct & Nov
Join us at our meeting venue at Arnolds
Creek Community Centre 19 Claret Ash Blvd,
Melton West Vic 3337

Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070



FMBG Patron
Jane Edmanson OAM



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

Executive Committee

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

Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

- **Gumnuts:** 1st & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Lakers:** 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10am-noon
- **Creekers:** Thursdays 9.30am-noon
- **Safaris:** Tues & Thurs 9.30am-noon
- **Sandgroppers:** 2nd & 3rd Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

Message from our patron Jane Edmanson

John Bentley writes:

I sent Jane our latest newsletter- here is her reply
*"Looks good John. You and your group do great work.
I will get to see you in spring*

Cheers Jane"

Shelving Unit in Garden Shed

Some good work done by Ian and Michael to fit
donated metal shelving which we were given into
a frame we had been given last year by one of
the adjacent businesses.



Paved Depot Area

Great work by the Work Experience Activity Team at the Depot learning some skills laying pavers. Small pad laid for our herbicide preparation area.



Note Replas garden seat made from recycled plastic

Visit by Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens visiting the MBG to plan the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens post conference tour on 2 May 2016





Australian Plants Expo

The Australian Plants Expo is on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th September at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 807 Main Road Eltham from 10am – 4pm both days Mel 21 J6

Come and enjoy the huge native flower show, with plant, book and art sales. Lots of environmental displays, activities for children and prizes to win.

The theme this year is Native Plants for Small Gardens. Refreshments available, wheelchair friendly and ample parking. Adults \$5 concession \$4 children free

Contact apsyarrayarra@gmail.com;

See our Facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/PSYarraYarra; or 9439 7228

Program of talks and demonstrations:

Saturday

11am Propagation

12.30pm Vertical gardens & green roofs - Fytogreen

2pm Drawing & painting native plants

Sunday

11am Propagation

12.30pm Bonsai with native plants

2pm Drawing & painting native plants

...FMBG Plant Sales Table at the Expo!

Grow the Garden Day Sunday 23 August

We had the 4 Ps - Planters, Prunners, Propagators and Prayers (oops meant sPrayers, but it was a Sunday so we could have had a few Prayers). Lots of work done - Photos are the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, leaders and family with FMBG volunteers planting in the Indigenous People's Garden (a new FMBG and District Scouting project).



Replas News August 2015

'New Friends'

This item appeared in the Replas Recycled Plastic newsletter on the seats in the Sensory Garden at the Melton Botanic Garden.

'When Melton Botanic Garden, in Victoria, created a sensory garden it was important to not only select plants that would enhance the experience for visitors, but to also choose seating that would complement the environment perfectly.'

John Bentley, President of Friends of Melton Botanic Garden said:

"I was impressed with Replas furniture due to the fact it's sustainable and the colours matched in perfectly with the garden"

Another accolade for the Botanic Garden from APS Warrnambool and District

John Bentley reports on another favourable report on our Botanic Garden:

Kevin Sparrow, President wrote in the latest newsletter for APS Warrnambool and District following a visit by him and his wife Joyce:

"A decade ago a small but determined band of volunteers dreamt that one day Melton would have its own botanic garden.

And through hard work and dedication, the Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens is now celebrating a garden that has blossomed into a flourishing community asset.

Friend's president John Bentley said there has been a lot of progress since the group formed in 2004, and everyone was immensely proud of their achievements. "From gaining community interest in 2004 to a site for the gardens in 2005 and the first planting in 2008, we are all so proud," he said. But Mr Bentley said none of it would have been possible without the strong backing from the community and Melton Council. "

There has always been a very positive feel from the community and real enthusiasm and support from them and Melton Council, backing us all the way." Mr Bentley said the garden now enjoyed a phenomenal reputation which sees people from all over Australia visiting. But there is even more to come. In the next 12 months he said there were grand plans for several new gardens including both a West Australian and South Australian inspired garden. "We will also be working with Melton Lions Club to develop a Victorian Volcanic Plains Aboriginal Plant Usage Garden and with Rotary on a yet to be decided project."

He said the group was excited to see the garden's latest addition, a Koori student garden, taking shape."
[Ed: meant to be Indigenous Peoples Garden]

FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, 2nd and 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

Prices

Forestry tubes \$2, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

Larvae of Pasture Day Moth in MBG

Caterpillars found on *Geranium incanum* (and others) in Southern African Garden. The photos are larvae of Pasture Day moth. They were duly stomped on.



Photos: Ella Parker

Bird Surveys by Geraldine Kelly

I did this week's survey on Wednesday 19 August and saw a lone swan on the big lake as well as a Great Cormorant fishing. There were the usual Purple Swamphens 3, Chestnut Teals 2 males and 3 females, Wood Ducks 5, Black Ducks 9. Over the last month there have been more Dusky Moorhens 2 this week which seems to be the average as well as Coots 4. I saw the lone White-faced Heron in the Back Pond. The usual honeyeaters White-plumed Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird and Noisy Miner also Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets.

Unusual recent sightings have been Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite and a Swamp Harrier sighted near the dam wall by a Birdlife photographic group.

Did my survey (26th August) of the Botanic Garden and saw a Buff-banded Rail on the highway edge of the Small Lake. There were tunnel holes in the reeds on the edge which it kept popping in and out of. It was feeding along the edge of the pond

Geraldine

Buff-banded Rail

These Buff-banded Rails were photographed by Margaret Peters at her home in Hopetoun Park
Adult (above) & chicks (below)



Springtime in the Garden



Melicytis dentatus (Tree Violet)
(formerly *Hymenanthera dentata*)



Chrysocephalum apiculatum (Common Everlasting)



Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains

Members \$15
Non-members \$20



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

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 be able to find us

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, New Zealand, UK, and USA. Please encourage new memberships from your contacts. We had 206 members in 2011-2012 and 218 members in 2013/14. **In 2014/15 we have achieved our greatest financial membership total ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. Well done everyone.**

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

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 and 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

FMBG Corporate Members 2014/15

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Callea Pearce Lawyers

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Phone: (03) 9743 5033
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Melton Produce

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Manager: Peter Earl

Melton Toyota

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Platinum Accounting & Taxation

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