



# Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter December 2015

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 37

## FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue 2016

Join us at our **NEW** meeting venue in March  
at **Botanica Springs Community Centre,**  
**249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield, Vic 3338**  
Contact: Janet Dyke 9743 2733 / 0408 170 070

## February 2016 Meeting at Depot

It's our first meeting for 2016 and we are having a  
free sausage sizzle at the depot and walk around the  
MBG. Starts at 6.30pm



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



Category Winner

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria  
Sustainable Cities Awards 2013

[sustainability.vic.gov.au/KABV](http://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

**Volunteers required to help at an FMBG Bunnings  
sausage sizzle on Monday 4th January. Please let  
John know on 9743 3819 to be placed on roster.**

## Help Build the Garden - Regular Activity Groups

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

Meet at Depot for all activities

## Djerriwarrh Festival 2015

FMBG marquee setup at the Djerriwarrh Festival.  
Many thanks to everyone who helped.



Photo courtesy Dave Peters

## Visit by APS Yarra Yarra Group

We received the following feedback from APS  
Yarra Yarra Group who visited the garden on  
Sunday 8 November:

*Everyone was thrilled with our event at the MBG  
on Sunday. It all went so smoothly*

*They could not get over the wonderful team of  
volunteers with that delicious morning tea waiting  
and all levels of assistance whilst we were there.*

*Our BBQ went well and we were all certainly  
hungry after our morning walk which was at least  
4,000 steps according to an app on someone's  
phone. I am delighted with everyone's reaction to  
the gardens. Pleasure, awe and genuine  
enjoyment sums it up pretty well.*

*You are all to be congratulated on such a fine  
achievement in developing MBG with the good  
will and team effort of volunteers.*

*I am hoping we can offer further support in the  
future.*

Most regular activity groups will  
re-start in late January or early  
February.

### Photos of Visit by APS Yarra Yarra Group



### Southern African Garden

We had a new exhibit in the Southern African Garden for a while this morning!



Raised garden areas are being constructed in the Southern African Aloe and Succulent bed.

### Garden Visit Feedback

Feedback on the botanic garden from The Centre in North Melbourne who had a guided tour of the garden recently:

*"Thanks again for a lovely day and tour of the Gardens on the 27th October we all had a lovely time! I found the gardens to be very well maintained and peaceful also friendly staff and welcoming. Here are some of the comments I received from the ladies that attended the day; "the gardens bring the community spirit together" "there was a comradery of the volunteers working together" "I appreciated what's involved in the planning of the gardens"*

It was a successful and nice day out.

### FMBG Patron Visit

Jane Edmanson in the Southern African Trial Beds with Ella Parker and John Bentley.



### Southern African Garden



*Steve Parker and John Bentley Planting*



*Photos courtesy Ella Parker*

Planting *Cussonia spicata* (Cabbage Tree) in the Southern African Garden and big deep holes were needed.

The *Cussonia spicata* trees were donated to the Friends by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne.

### City of Melton: Interface Growth Fund grant

The City of Melton has applied for funding to install two pedestrian bridges and a path around the south and eastern sides of the main lake at the Melton Botanic Garden – The project is titled “Botanic Trail”.

The Melton City Council asked the Friends to provide and source Letters of Support from groups and individuals to help gain a successful outcome. A good number were received.

The Garden will benefit from a path around the lake and bridges at two crossing points (near the public car park and the south end of the lake wall).

The lake is one of the most prominent features in the MBG. This is the main area where people go for recreational activities such as BBQs, family picnics, social gathering, walking, cycling and jogging. Currently people only have access to the north and west area of the lake.

This project will allow FMBG volunteers access to the southern and eastern areas of the lake to be able to plant and beautify the area according to the approved 2009 landscape design plans. Revegetation of the lake edge on the northern and west sides commenced in 2011 with indigenous plantings by FMBG with funds from Melbourne Water grants.

The project will bring benefits to the community by adding another significant path to the path network in the MBG. This project extends the walking tracks in the Melton Botanic Garden which many residents and visitors to the garden have been asking for so they are able to walk all the way around and enjoy the beauty of the area.

Other benefits would include:

- \* Health benefits with longer walking trails on well-constructed paths
- \* Access to the whole lake with pedestrian bridges
- \* Increased usage of the Melton Botanic Garden.
- \* Improved walking trails and appreciation of the through access to the lake environment for Melton residents
- \* The volunteers will be able to keep the area clean of rubbish

FMBG have supplied a letter of support to Melton Council in support of this grant application. Melton Environment Group have also supplied a letter of support.

Outcome known maybe February or March 2016.

### Gabion Cages at the Botanic Garden



### Lakers volunteers hard at work



### Bench Seating

Four bench seats have been constructed by our Work Experience Activity Team. Here they are ready to be installed by them in the Acacia Walk near the small lake. Many thanks the FMBG member who donated the funds for the seats and installation materials.



### More Feedback about the Garden

Don Journet has passed this comment onto the Friends in a recent email:

*'A number of people from Bacchus Marsh who have taken the time to come down the Melton Botanic Gardens have expressed their admiration for what you have achieved over the last few years.'*

### Spotlight walk at Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November members of FMBG joined in a spotlight walk MEG, PLEG at Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre. Our guide Steph led us through the bush where we saw many small native mammals long vanished from the mainland. Eastern Barred Bandicoots, Brown Bandicoots, Rufous Bettong and Rock Wallaby could be seen by spotlight in the shadows as they scurried among the rocks and bushes.

Mt Rothwell is surrounded by predator-proof fencing to exclude cats and foxes. Small mammals such as these were once common across Australia but due to feral predators and massive vegetation clearance this is now the only place where these animals can be seen in the wild on the Australian mainland.

### Nursery Closure over Holiday Period

*"The FMBG Nursery will be closed from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and open from Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2016"*

*Thanks, Margaret Cook*

### FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

Tuesdays from 10.00am - 1.00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### Spotlight walk at Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre

FMBG and Melton Environment Group members recently visited Mt Rothwell for a night walk.

We had a meal together before the walk.

A great night.



Pre-walk talk



Fence to prevent feral animal access



Brush-tailed Possum at Mt Rothwell

### Acacia Walk Additions

A dog water bowl has been made and installed by the MatchWorks Work Experience Activity Team in the new seating area in the Acacia Walk near the small dam. Just fill with clean water for your dog to drink



*Dog water bowl*



*New seating in the Acacia Walk*

### 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, USA, and now Denmark. Please encourage some 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](mailto: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*



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



We have new stock of a great book for those interested in indigenous plants.

On sale at the FMBG Nursery at \$15 for FMBG members and \$20 for non-members

## 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 Steve Parker 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](mailto:editor@fmbg.org.au)

### Newsletter:

Editor: John Bentley (9743 3819) / Daryl Akers  
Email: [editor@fmbg.org.au](mailto: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 be a...

## FMBG Corporate Members 2015/16

### Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi

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

### Aquarium Leasing Specialists

Manager: John Candy  
Phone: 9743 6619 / 0408 134 005  
22 Springway, Brookfield, 3338  
[aquarium@westnet.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.calleapearce.com.au)

### Everite Garden Supplies

19 Melton Valley Drive  
Melton Victoria  
Phone: 9743 6021  
[office@everitegs.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.lampe.com.au)  
Email: [enquiries@lampe.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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>

# Sponsors

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- Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi
- Platinum Accounting and Taxation
- Melton Produce
- Tabcorp Park Melton
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- Westwaters Hotel Caroline Springs
- Avis Rentals Melton
- Sign Perfection Melton
- Don Nardella MLA Melton

Proudly supported by the City of Melton

*We wish everyone a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Have a safe and wonderful holiday  
break and we look forward to seeing  
you in 2016*