



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc. Newsletter Winter 2016

Growing Plants Growing People

No. 41

FMBG Monthly Meeting Venue

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

July Meeting

Wednesday 13 July at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker – Margi Vice President of
Plant Trust with Don Journet
Topic: Plant Collections and the Role of
Plant Trust

Meeting information phone Janet 9743 2733



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
- **Sandgropers:** 2nd & 4th Weds 9.30am-noon
- **Nursery Team:** Every Tues 10am-1pm
- **Odd Jobbers:** Tues & Thurs 10am-noon

Meet at Depot for all activities

Annual General Meeting

Wed 10th August 2016 7.30pm

It is time to inject some more new talent into the
Committee which has been an effective team for
over 10 years in leading FMBG and building the
Melton Botanic Garden.

We are in need of a new SECRETARY and a
new TREASURER plus committee positions.

If you are interested in taking on one of these
roles or being on the Committee as an ordinary
member please let me know (9743 3819 04 0412
762 531).

You will need to have your nomination submitted
7 days before the AGM to the Secretary.

John Bentley, President FMBG

Membership fees are due

Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden in
partnership with Melton City Council have been
entered in the Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards.
We have now been announced as a finalist
following judging of the Southern African Garden
on 30th April.

Ella and Steve Parker are representing FMBG at
the awards night on Friday 15th July.

Keeping our fingers crossed!



Southern African garden

Aboriginal artwork in the MBG

The walls of the public amenities block will tell a story that commences on the side next to the water tank (white wall at the moment in the photo) and finishes on the side next to the main concrete path with an image of Australia.

The story is about a journey from mountains to the sea. This work is being done by the Melton Men's Aboriginal Group in partnership with FMBG. Andrew the artist in the photo also has work displayed in the Melbourne Museum.



Andrew (artist) and John



Before



After

Melton Business Excellence Awards

Congrats to all FMBG members. We have been awarded the Best Access and Inclusion Award at the City of Melton Business Excellence Awards!



'Congratulations to all involved in driving such an inclusive community environment providing an opportunity for all to come and contribute'

Colleen Thompson

'Congratulations well done so happy for you all'

Lyn Nardella



Speech on receiving the Access and Inclusion Award.



Melton Environment Day Grant Awards

FMBG members receiving an environment grant to design and place 5 bird information signs in the Melton Botanic Garden.



Western Australian Plants



Eucalyptus caesia

Grow the Garden Day Working in the Botanic Garden



Planting in the Southern African Garden Proteaceae bed

Southern African Plants



Haemanthus albiflos

Bushfoods Garden Underway



Kelvin forming paths and shaping beds

Depot Raised Garden Bed

The raised garden bed and seating taking shape. Great work by the Matchworks Work Experience Activity Team. The garden beds are being planted mainly with Southern African Salvias as stock plants for propagation. There is seating built along the front edge of the bed.



Plants destined for the Southern African Garden



Back of the uteloaded



Some Aloes from the RBGV Growing Friends Plant Sale

Aloe arborescens flowering during July



National Botanic Gardens Open Day



On Sunday 29th May the inaugural National Botanic Gardens Open Day was celebrated around Australia. Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden participated in this nationwide event. The Friends group invited several other local community events to share with celebrating Botanic Gardens, including Melton Environment Group, Country Women's Association (CWA) – Owls group, Willows Quilting Group, and Scouts. Activities included: Guided Tours, Plant Nursery sales, Discovery Table, Breakfast with the Birds Sausage Sizzle, Display of Nature Based Quilts by Willows Quilting Group and various information displays.

Despite the cold weather, mercifully free of rain and wind, large numbers of visitors attended through much of the day

The Friends conducted guided tours of the garden, among other features. Visitors were guided around the garden where the tour guides pointed out the various features.

Scouts directed parking and a did great job.



More photos on Nature out West:
<https://natureoutwest.wordpress.com/2016/05/29/open-day-at-melton-botanic-garden-breakfast-with-the-birds/>

Open Day Discovery Table

Another feature was a Discovery Table where visitors could examine various items under a couple of stereoscopic microscopes.



Open Day Insect Hotels



The garden also features a couple of Insect Hotels. These are small structures, quite inconspicuous and easily missed, that provide shelter for native insects. As well as providing insect homes, especially valuable in many modern homes with minimal gardens, they also make an attractive garden feature; especially when painted in colourful designs. Bird nest boxes are fast becoming a feature of many gardens and parks, to offset the fast disappearing availability of hollow trees and natural hollows. Details of Insect Hotels can be found on the web.

**Botanic Gardens Open Day
Willows Quilting Group**

The Willows Quilting Group displayed a beautiful collection of handmade quilts. Their vibrant colours and imaginative designs stood out like beacons in the dark on a wintry day, giving them an almost stained glass appearance



**Botanic Gardens Open Day
Willows Quilting Group**



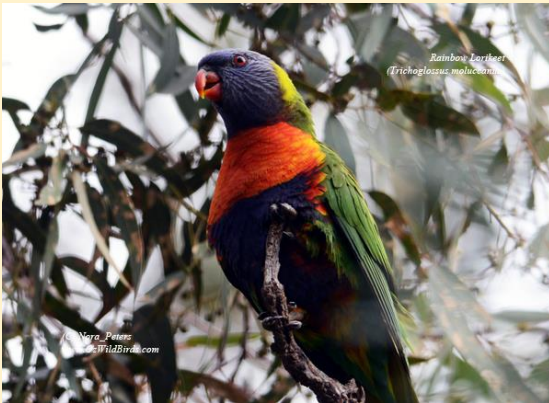
**National Botanic Gardens Open Day
Open Day Guided Bird Walk**



Geraldine led a bird walk through the garden where a total of 27 species were seen

Local bird photographer Nora Peters gave a brief description of the walk.

'... from today's Bird Walk at MBG, had a great time and enjoyed the walk immensely. I wonder if anyone else has noticed the beak on the first Lorikeet photo, has a bit of a twist and a piece missing, still very vocal.....this is the one that I took down near the corner of the smaller lake! So pleased to get an Eastern Rosella as well, not as sharp as I would have liked but nice all the same. Hope you all had a great weekend'



Rainbow Lorikeet



Eastern Rosella

Black Swan pair at MBG



Just an update on the Black Swan pair at MBG. Took this when I had only the little camera on me last Friday afternoon. Not too fazed by my presence but retreated to the island to preen.

Nora

Does anyone have a Cherry Ballart?

We are looking to put them into the Bushfoods Garden but they are not readily available in Nurseries. Even Kurunga Native Nursery does not have them.

Cathy Powers property may be our only hope!

Cherry Ballart
Exocarpus cupressiformis

A small tree with yellow-green foliage. Produces fleshy, red fruit in late spring that are eaten by the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and other birds.

Their roots raid (parasitise) roots of other plants such as grasses and wattles from which they obtain valuable nutrients.



Andrew playing his didgeridoo at the MBG

Visit by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Twenty-nine Volunteer Guides from the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne had a garden tour at the Melton Botanic Garden on Tuesday 7th June. Thanks to all FMBG volunteers in helping making the tour, morning tea, and nursery sales a success.



Photos courtesy Ralph Henga

Thank You from RBGV Melbourne

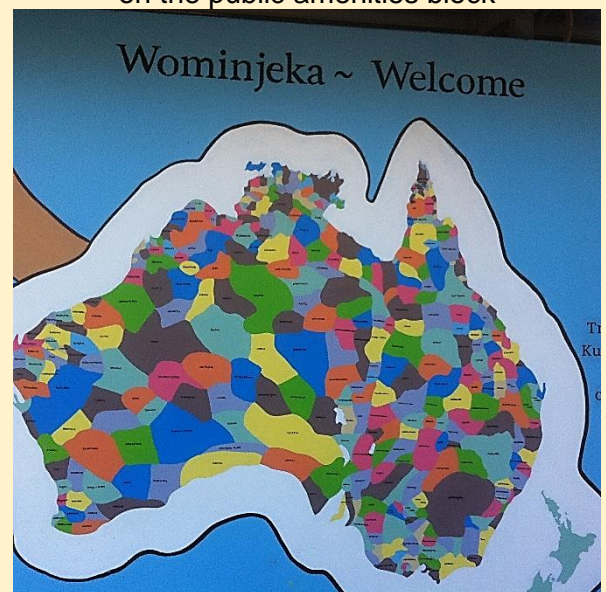
We received the following thank you email from the Volunteer Guides at the RBGV Melbourne:

*'Dear John, and Members of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens,
Thank you very much for showing us around the Melton Botanic Gardens yesterday. We appreciated the opportunity to see the Gardens through John's expert eyes; to hear about the history, the plans for the future, the engagement with community and much more!
The impressive achievements of the enthusiastic, hard-working Volunteers were there for all to see.
Some of the feedback from those who attended yesterday included such comments as "up-lifting", "inspiring", "marvellous", "a revelation", and "passion" came up a few times, not only in reference to John's enthusiasm and drive, but in reference to all involved!
We particularly enjoyed the welcoming morning tea provided by the Volunteers, and we would like to pass on our thanks to all concerned. The Nursery was also of great interest.
We would like to offer a reciprocal guided tour of the RBGV-Melbourne Gardens, in appreciation of your hospitality.
With our best wishes for the bright future of the Melton Botanic Gardens.'*

Kind Regards,
Sue Smith and Anne Ada

Indigenous Language Map

This map is part of the Aboriginal mural on the public amenities block



Restoration of Ryans Creek continues

A temporary road has been made beside the depot for truck access where we normally park for overflow parking.

There is a large pile of concrete that is to be removed and many more truckloads of rocks being brought in and other material taken out. Please be aware there will be a significant number of trucks using the depot entrance. Please be careful, entering, leaving and parking. If you can please look to park in the depot compound area.



Ryans Creek after rain



Due to the rain Ryans Creek has started flowing and bursting its banks

Ryans Creek & Lathams Snipe

Ryans Creek with dense grassy expanses is now recognised as an important site on the migration path of the endangered Lathams Snipe.

The snipe are presently breeding in northern Japan & Siberia so they should not be disturbed by the capital works underway in transforming Ryans Creek from a concrete drain back into a living creek. In fact the work could not be commenced until Council were certain all Latham's Snipe had left the area.



Bird Surveys at the MBG

Nora Peters is doing the regular bird survey whilst Geraldine is overseas enjoying herself.

Thursday 9th June 2016 1.30pm-2-30pm

Birds seen were:

Willy Wagtail, Magpie, Magpie-lark, Spotted Turtledove, Purple Swamphen, Rainbow Lorikeet, Black Duck, Myna, White-plumed Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Red-rumped Parrots, Coot, Blackbird, Dusky Moorhen, Welcome Swallow, White Duck and Darter (Female) - 18 species in all no Black Swans!

Not bad for a cold, wet and windy day.....

Thursday 20th June 2016 4.00 – 5.00

Birds sighted:-

Magpie-lark, Red Wattlebird, Magpie, Raven, Eastern Rosella, Blackbird, Willie Wagtail, Noisy Miner, Indian Miner, Starlings, White-plumed Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Masked Lapwing, Black Duck, Maned Duck, Australian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, White-faced Heron, Red-rumped Parrot, White Duck, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sparrow, Little Pied Cormorant, Darter (F) and Pelican.....

26 Species! No Swans.

I did most of my count with the camera so I got quite a few photos this time! The White-faced Heron was a little bit shy and tried to hide amongst the tree-guards before flying off to the other pond, the Wood Ducks were very much into spring, as were the Swamphens and Coots, looks like Spring is going to come early this year.

Tuesday 28th June 1.30pm to 2.30 pm

Blackbird, White-plumed Honeyeater, Magpie-lark, Starling, Indian Myna, Magpie, Eurasian Coot, Maned Duck, Welcome Swallow, Red Wattlebird, Red-rumped Parrot, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Sparrow, Spotted Turtledove, Crested Pigeon, Little Raven, White-faced Heron, Willie Wagtail, Pelican, Darter (female), Black Duck, White Duck, Eastern Rosella, Masked Lapwing, New Holland Honeyeater & Noisy Miner!...27 in all.no Swans.

I spotted the New Holland Honeyeaters in the flowers and thought the baby looked cute waiting for its mouth to be filled.



Purple Swamphen



Pelican



Coots



Wood Ducks



New Holland Honeyeater

Nursey Team

You may not be aware that the Melton Botanic Garden Nursery has been going from strength to strength since its opening over a year ago.

Last year we sold approximately 3,500 plants. We sold these at the FMBG Nursery located at the FMBG Depot, at nine external sales events and also at the Melton Visitor Information Centre, where our plant trolley is located.

We have already had strong sales this year, compared with this time last year.

We have a wonderful band of volunteers, and we are keen to increase our numbers. You might like to attend a weekly nursery activity to see if you would like to be a regular member of the Nursery Team. *No experience is needed.*

Plant production activities include propagating and potting-on. Gloves and equipment are provided. We just ask that you wear long trousers and closed shoes for safety purposes.

The Nursery is open from 10.00 – 1.00pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and 2nd and 4th Sundays. Come for one hour or more.

Please email plants@fmbg.org.au if interested, or simply turn up when the nursery is open.

Committee Changes Afoot

Janet Dyke after serving as the FMBG Secretary for over 10 years has reluctantly tended her resignation from this position as of the AGM on Wednesday 10th August, 2016.

Margaret Peters has also announced her retirement from the FMBG Committee after her long serving tenure as FMBG Treasurer.

We greatly appreciate and thank Janet for undertaking the position and work of Secretary and Margaret for her invaluable work as Treasurer. Both have been vital players as part of a wonderful team leading FMBG and working with all our volunteers and will be missed from their roles on the Committee. But they are not going away.

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)

Royal Horticultural Gardeners Day Out.



Nursery Sales with Margaret and Jen
Dave, Margaret and Jen held a stall at the event on what was a very cold day with the team setting up the night before. Good promotion of the garden was also done

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 \$3, 70mm pots \$4 and 90mm pots \$6

Welcome to our new Corporate Members

Woodlea, go2Finance Services and one silent corporate member (*they know who they are!*)

We are very pleased they have joined FMBG and look forward to their continued support in helping to build the botanic garden. In turn you may also like to support them and our other Corporate Members. Mention you are member of FMBG and you may receive a discount

WOODLEA

go2 FINANCE SERVICES

OUR GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE YOURS

Membership

Membership fees are due by 30 June 2016

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 achieved our greatest total of financial memberships ever, reaching 250 members comprising individual, corporate and associate memberships. However, in 2015/16 we tallied up and reached a total of 263 memberships!**

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 may be able to arrange to collect your payment and form

Membership fees are due

Some FMBG Members



FMBG Corporate Members 2016/17

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

go2Finance Services

Manager: Tabatha Vella 03 9746 6772 / 0477 466 622
10 Micasa Place, Melton West VIC 3337
tabatha@go2finance.net.au
www.go2finance.net.au
facebook.com/go2finance

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>

Woodlea

25 Woodlea Boulevard, Rockbank, Victoria 3335
Woodlea Sales Office Open daily 10am – 5pm
1300 966 353