



Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden

Newsletter Summer 2017 No. 45

Growing Plants Growing People

Email: friends@fmbg.org.au

PO Box 2381, Melton South, 3338

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www.fmbg.org.au

FMBG Monthly Meeting

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Botanica Springs Community Centre 249 Clarkes Rd Brookfield VIC 3338

Upcoming Meetings

February Meeting:
14th Feb: Free BBQ and walk around the Melton Botanic Garden.

March Meeting:
14th March: Jane Edmanson speaking

April Meeting:
11th April: Jim Holdsworth

Upcoming Events:

February:

11th Sunday: 10am-noon
Clean up day.

25th Sunday: 10am-noon
Grow the Garden.

March:

4th Sunday: 10am-noon
Clean up Australia Day.

23rd Friday: 6:30pm FMBG Social Dinner.

25th Sunday: 10am-noon
Grow the Garden.

21st-25th: Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

April:

8th Sunday: 10am-noon
Clean up day.

22nd Sunday: 10am-noon
Grow the Garden.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It's the end! Well the end of the year and what a fantastic year it has been at the Melton Botanic Garden. And I think we can all agree the Garden is looking better and better each year.

The new Mediterranean Garden, Amphitheatre and green wall was constructed and planted out by the Matchworks Work Experience Activity Team. The amphitheatre got used as soon as it was built being used by the scouts at 2017 National Tree Day and the Melton Botanic Garden opening in October.

The Southern African Garden is looking beautiful and bright with lots of flowering plants. A great view from the walking path, although it may look a little too good as it has had more than a few plants stolen throughout the year.

There was a bit of chaos down at the lake this year with the construction of the new housing area and stormwater overflow pipes being built underground through the garden to the lake. But the garden areas around the lake are looking great, with weeding and planting beginning on the lake island this year, and the continued work weeding, planting and maintaining the area around the lake.

The completion and opening Botanic Trail has added a wonderful walking track around the lake offering more views of the lake.

Two Rain Gardens have been built by council on Ryans Creek North. These will help trap pollutants and have been planted out with indigenous wetland species. Well worth a walk along Ryans Creek.

A humongous thanks to all the volunteers, all the members and everyone that has helped at the Garden, as well as the donations, grants received and fundraising all contribute to make the Melton Botanic Garden and the Friends group possible.

Hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and we hope to see you enjoying the Melton Botanic Garden in 2018!

The Garden is Open!

Help Build the Garden Regular Activity Groups:

Bushies: Every Tues
9.30am-noon

Gumnuts: 1st & 3rd Wed
9.30am-noon

Lakers: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tues
9:30am-noon

Creekers: Thurs 9:30am-noon

Safaris: Tues 9:30am-noon

Sandgropers: 2nd & 4th
Weds 9:30am-noon

Nursery Team: Every
Tues 10am-1pm

Odd Jobbers: Every Tues
& Thurs 10am-noon

The Melton Botanic Garden is officially open! On the 11th on October the Melton Botanic Garden was opened by Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.



On the windy day the Friends were joined by Governor Linda Dessau, Mr Anthony Howard, Melton Mayor Sophie Ramsey, Ros Spence MLA, Don Nardella MLA, City of Melton Councillors, MCC CEO Kel Tori, MCC Staff, Friends and other distinguished guests.

President John Bentley hosted a brief walk and (of course) talk around part of the garden, in particular the indigenous paintings around the public toilet and the Bushfoods Garden.

The Amphitheatre and green wall were then a great backdrop to the wonderful speeches, especially from Linda Dessau about the importance of green space. Then the plaque was unveiled to commemorate the official opening of the



FMBG Nursery Plant Sales

21 Williams St Melton
Open 10am - 1pm every
Tuesday & Thursday and
the 2nd and 4th Sunday of
the month or by
appointment.

Nursery reopens Thu rs 16 Jan

Stocking a range of native
plants grown in the Melton
Botanic Garden including
Eremophila and Eucalyptus.
Plants suited to growing in
dry conditions in Melton
gardens.

Prices: Forestry tubes \$3,
70mm pots \$4 and 90mm
pots \$6.

Email:
Nursery@fmbg.org.au

Melton Botanic Garden and
many, many photos were taken.

Simone Gordon and the Melton
City Council provided an
amazing spread of bush food
inspired food and a coffee truck
for everyone to enjoy. As well as
marquees to keep everyone dry.



Contact FMBG

Email:
friends@fmbg.org.au

Phone:
John or Jill Bentley on
03 9743 3819

Mail:
Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden, Inc.
PO Box 2381, Melton
South, 3338

Online:
www.fmbg.org.au

Follow FMBG

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Plant-Nursery-and-Depot

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@melton_bg

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Please post **photos** of the Melton Botanic Garden and tag the picture with an @ and the relevant social media name.

The Right Kind of Grass

Down by the main lake in the Melton Botanic Garden the Lakers have been working hard to provide a native bushy grassland for birds to forage for food, seeds and nesting material. It is tough but



Grow the Garden Day

important job to remove the introduced species of grasses and replace with hardy native grasses such as Wallaby Grass, Stipa, Poas and Feather Grass. These will provide a natural food source for the birds in and round the MBG.

The rather good turnout for Grow the Garden on Sunday the 26th November worked by

the lake and managed to plant 54 grasses and 54 Dianella. Then with all the planting, staking and watering done the group enjoyed morning tea at the lake.

On Tuesday the 28th November the Lakers plus the Odd Jobbers worked in the heat to plant 54 Dianella admixta beside the lake.



Lakers Tuesday morning planting

Even on Melbourne Cup Day the Lakers were caring about the animals and their habitat at the MBG and were working hard weeding and planting around the lake. Although because it was a holiday there may have been a nice hot latte consumed while working.



Weeding the woody grassland area

The Lakers group meets every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9.30am-12 noon. The Islanders are on the 2nd Tuesday of every even Month (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

Southern African Garden

FMBG Membership

Become a member of the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden!

Or renew your membership. We welcome all members old and new. The support through memberships greatly helps in the development of the garden and you can choose to participate in activities.

Cost of membership:

Single \$10

Student/Concession \$5

Household \$20

Household Concession \$10

Associate \$20

Corporate \$50

The membership forms are available at www.fmbg.org.au and can be paid via direct bank transfer to FMBG.

Account Name: Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

BSB: 033-121

Account Number: 20-8503

Please ensure your name appears under the transaction details. In addition please submit the form or email to

friends@fmbg.org.au

Forms can also be collected from the depot at the garden or at events attended by FMBG.

Members can also request forms to pass out to potential new recruits.

For **membership information** or to drop in a payment please contact **Jill Bentley** on **03 97433819**.

If you are housebound we can arrange to collect your payment and form.

The Southern African Garden is looking stunning, the amazing colour in the garden is always a beautiful sight to see and popular with walks around the garden, with the range of colourful and unusual looking plants.



White Erica

The Safaris work very hard each week keeping the Southern African Garden looking great, with the ongoing tasks of weeding, watering, planting and importantly checking which plants have been stolen.

A mass planting effort was achieved by 15 volunteers on Tuesday 21st November, where over 170 plants were planted plus lots of hand weeding and watering.

Photos of the plants of the Southern African Garden are regularly posted on the Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Facebook group.



Planting in the Southern African Garden



Protea



Strelitzia flowering

Book a Guided Tour

To book a Guided Tour around the Melton Botanic Garden please contact John Bentley on 9743 3819.

The tours can be adjusted to suit groups including the time of the tour and also amount of walking involved.

FMBG Committee

President: John Bentley (9743 3819)

Vice President: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)

Treasurer: John Bentley (interim)

Secretary: Barbara Frampton

Assistant Secretary: Alan Partridge (9743 5761)

Committee Members: Jill Bentley (9743 3819)

Sarah Baldacchino
Steve Parker
Jen Eldridge

Safety Officers: John Bentley & Dave Peters

Admin Manager: Janet Dyke

Nursery Manager: Anne Langmaid

FMBG Librarian: Jean Partridge (9743 5761)

Botanic Trail



Mayor Cr Bob Turner and Cesar Melhem MLC

Both you and our visitors can now enjoy more of the Melton Botanic Garden with the opening of the Botanic Trail.



Mayor Cr Bob Turner

The Botanic Trail was officially opened by City of Melton Mayor Cr Bob Turner and Cesar Melhem Member for Western Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council.

The project was made possible through the Victorian State Government Growing Suburbs Fund and Melton City Council. Many thanks to MCC Engineering and Daniel in managing the project.

The Island

On Tuesday 12th December seven Islanders did hand weeding and weed spraying on the Bird Sanctuary Island, and there was plenty of bird life about.

First a Latham's Snipe was seen on the south edge of the island which promptly flew off across the lake into the reeds in the south east corner of the main lake. Then a Pelican and various other water birds were



Duck breeding box containing an egg

observed, and they watched a Little Black Cormorant fly majestically over the island. Elaine found a duck egg in one of the nesting boxes that was installed a couple of months ago and one of the other boxes had nesting material in it. The team also brought back 5 very full bags of weeds.

Photos From Around the Garden



New Rain Garden - Ryans Creek North



Sensory Garden



Drumsticks Ryans Creek N



Southern African Trial Beds



Eucalyptus Arboretum has many trees flowering



Melton City Council Tour—Mayor, CEO and staff in December



Walking the new Botanic Trail



Corporate Members

Please support our Corporate members
If you are a financial FMBG member
and make purchases please mention you are with FMBG

Alan Mance Nissan and Mitsubishi: www.alanmancenissan.com.au

AM Dental Clinics – Melton: www.facebook.com/amdentalclinics

Aquarium Leasing Specialists: aquarium@westnet.com.au

Australian Hearing: www.hearing.com.au

Bacchus Marsh Farm Supplies: www.bacchusmarshfarmsupplies.com.au

Bunker Entertainment: www.frankspencer.net
info@frankspencer.net

Callea Pearce Lawyers: www.calleapearce.com.au

Central Garden Supplies: office@everitegs.com.au

Edible Eden Design: www.edibleedendesign.com

go2 Finance Services: www.go2finance.net.au
tabatha@go2finance.net.au

Goldfields Revegetation: goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au
info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au

Hexima: hexima.com.au

Melton Produce: 29 Brooklyn Rd, Melton South

Melton Timber & Hardware Home Hardware

Melton Toyota: www.meltontoyota.com.au

Phillip Johnson Landscapes: www.phillipjohnson.com.au

Platinum Accounting and Taxation: www.platinumaccounting.com.au
info@platinumaccounting.com.au

Satellite City Furniture & Bedding: www.satellitecityfurniture.com.au
paulkelly@satellitecityfurniture.com.au

Western Land Services P/L: www.westernland.com.au

Woodlea: www.woodlea.com.au