



MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

www.transitionmonty.org

May 2015

MCG is a Transition Town

We are connecting local people with ideas, vision and action to move from oil dependency to sustainable communities.

Be part of this vibrant group and help create a community that YOU would like to live in:

- Growing food**
- Community gardens**
- Climate change action**
- Transport advocacy**

The Transition Town (TT) movement is a global network of localised TT groups.

MCG aims to inspire and enhance connectedness and sustainable living within community.



Featuring

- Meet Your Community
- Council Budget Cuts
- Transition Streets Challenge
- Environment Day
- Coal Reserves
- Food Swap – Pizza Day
- Peck's Dam Works
- Solar Pans & Sewerage
- Transition Streets Challenge
- Classifieds

Steering Group

Convenor: Alan Cuthbertson

Co-convenor:

Katherine Barling

Treasurer: Ross Woodham

Secretary: Pam Rowley

Member Secretary:

Alison Johns

Ordinary members:

Barbara Jackson

Rohan Johns

Blaise van Hecke

Karl Bates

Margaret O'Dowd

Jane Oldfield

Kathryn Landers

For info, contact:

montymoves@gmail; or

phone Alan on 9439 8205 or

Katherine on 0439 652 680

Meet Your Community

Hi, my name is Kev Howlett. I've lived in Montmorency for about eight years but in the area for almost 25 years. I own Busybird Publishing with my wife, Blaise. Together we help people bring their book into the world.

I've been a photographer for 30 years and I love to help people tell their story. I was fortunate enough to visit the gorgeous country of Nepal, last year, on a trek to Mount Everest Base Camp. I published a coffee table book from that to raise funds for a

condition that our son has called CMT. I bet you've never heard of it. That's why I want to raise money and awareness for the organisation. Feel free to drop by our studio to chat with me about this condition.

I was so sad to hear about the recent earthquake in Nepal. Because of that, I have rehung my exhibition of images from Nepal at our studio. Everything that I sell from that will go directly to the earthquake appeal.

If you've never been to our studio, please drop by and say hello. We are a bit of a drop-in spot and we like to think that we are a community hub. Our monthly open mic nights are a lot of fun and you'd be amazed at the talent we have in this area in terms of writing, poetry and art. We're right next door to Walkers Wheels in Para Road, so I'm sure that Marcus is up for a bit of a chat too.



Council Budget Cuts

We are greatly concerned about plans to remove \$100,000 from environmental projects run by the Banyule Council. Below is a letter I have sent to councillors on behalf of the group outlining our concern at the proposal. You can support our concerns by emailing our councillor (Steve Briffa steven.briffa@banyule.vic.gov.au) with your concerns.

We understand that cuts will be discussed at council on Monday 25th May. You are invited to join us in protest at the meeting. You are also entitled to talk at the meeting if you wish. If you plan to attend, please contact me so we can coordinate activities.

Alan Cuthbertson alan@diydoubleglaze.com.au

Dear Councillor Briffa,

The Montmorency Community Group would like to congratulate the Banyule Council for their support which has allowed us to run various projects in the past and commend it for its foresight and commitment to environmental projects.

It is with concern that the Montmorency Community Group notes the measures forecast in the Banyule Council draft budget that will adversely affect council support for projects run by residents and community groups that care about the environment.

While we fully understand the need to carefully manage the scarce resources within the council we believe that the cuts are ill-conceived.

The Montmorency Community Group objects to these budget cuts as the sense of community, the well being of Banyule residents and the environment in which they live is too important to be sliced into pieces in budget cuts.

The Montmorency Community Group – A Transition Town – was formed in 2009 and has achieved incredible outcomes. Our support base is solid with 500+ Banyule residents subscribing to our monthly newspaper and 360+ Like on our very active Facebook. Both the group and members of our group have received awards from Banyule Council. The major projects that we have achieved in recent years have been made possible by grants from the council which have allowed us to concentrate on implementing projects rather than fund raising for projects. These projects include installation of sugar glider boxes, an almanac to help people in growing vegetables, a series of courses on growing and preserving tomatoes and a program to assist homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient. These projects have seen excellent partnerships develop between us, council and council staff, with council providing funds and advice while we provide enthusiasm and volunteer hours.

What is even more of a concern is we believe the cuts have been made to fund the installation of solar panels on Council buildings. We strongly endorse such a program but believe it can be done at zero cost to the council and not require cutting other valuable projects. The decreasing cost of solar panels and low interest rates mean that the council is ideally positioned to borrow the money for the panels and repay the loans out of the annual savings in their power bills.

The MCG greatly appreciates the support it has received to date from Council and looks forward to continuing our healthy and positive relationships. We also appreciate the support of Council staff in environmental issues. Without this support, Banyule would slide into a dismal future.

Yours sincerely

Alan Cuthbertson

Convener Montmorency Community Group – A Transition Town

Have you heard about the Transition Streets Challenge?

A small group of people or households get together over 7 or 8 occasions (perhaps fortnightly or monthly) to look at how we can cut bills, develop new skills and build our local neighbourhood networks.

We had the launch of this initiative a few weeks ago in Macleod, and over 60 people came.

It was a fantastic celebration of transition towns in the area, and of the little things we can all do that collectively, make a big difference to our planet.

We have some great support from Banyule council to run these groups. Every household gets a workbook, which is full of fab ideas, interesting facts and practical suggestions so we can learn from each other and reduce our ecological footprint in a fun way.

Some groups have started, and we are starting more soon, in Montmorency, in Greensborough, Lower Plenty and more.

There will be about 16 groups across Banyule, and Nillumbik residents are most welcome.

To find out more, or to put your hand up to participate, please contact us as follows:

General Enquiries to Robin info@transitionbanyule.org.au

Lower Plenty enquiries to Alan alan@diydoubleglaze.com.au or 0418 102 483

Greensborough or Nillumbik area enquiries to Katherine barlingk@gmail.com or 0439 652 680

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ENVIRONMENT DAY

Monty South Primary School wants to involve all their students in studying the environment through participating in environmental activities. They are holding an Environment Day on Friday May 29th, from 10am to 3pm. A grant received from the Banyule City Council will be used to involve students in a revegetation project on the school grounds.

On the day, students will be organised into groups to participate in 4 different activities, including revegetating the school bush block, which contains some interesting remnants of native vegetation. Students will each plant some indigenous seedlings supplied through the grant. The school has asked us to find adult volunteers to help supervise the planting, by each instructing small groups of the children. Please RSVP to me if you can help out on the day.

Pam Rowley
Friends of Montmorency Bushlands
94391853

Why we need to need to leave our coal reserves in the ground.

With our relatively small population, Australia's overall contribution to climate change is negligible, right? About 2%.

It's an often-heard excuse for why we shouldn't bother to change our ways, let the bigger economies go first.

Our newest report is busting that myth wide open. Pollution from Australia's coal resources, particularly the enormous Galilee coal basin planned in Northern Queensland, are alone enough to change the world's climate, and take us two-thirds of the way to a two degree rise in global temperature.

EVENTS

Open Mic Night

Wednesday 20 May
7.00pm-9.00pm Busybird
Publishing Studio Gallery
2/118 Para Road
Montmorency 3094
7.00pm-9.00pm
Entry \$5, includes supper.
For more information call
Blaise on 0416 157 281.

Food Swap

Sunday 7 June
10.30-11.30am
Monty Primary School

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 13 June
10am - 12 noon
Pecks Dam
Map 21, F7
Planting and BBQ: around
the seat area and the
batters to infill from last
year's plantings.

ENQUIRIES:

**Ratray, Belmont and
Wooded Way Reserves**
Contact: Pam on 94391853
or Julia on 94392378
Pecks Dam
Contact George on
94397375

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!
MONTY BUSH DANCE**
Saturday 8 August

Australia's Galilee Basin is actually one of three potential climate hot spots on the planet – along with the Canadian tar sands and new reserves in the Arctic. Developing any of these reserves is incompatible with effective action on climate change.

As the former President of BP Australasia, I'm not the guy most people expect to hear from on this point. However I have long argued we must recognise the risk of climate change and move early to avoid even more dramatic dislocation later.

The economic reality is clear- there will be no long-term demand for our coal reserves and over 90% of our coal must stay in the ground if the world is to meet its commitment of a global temperature rise of no more than 2 degrees. That means any investment in new coal could become 'stranded assets' in a world rapidly cutting carbon emissions. It also means we need to be planning the replacement of our ageing coal stations as a matter of urgency. This is a matter of cold hard economics.

Two degrees doesn't sound like much, but it's a danger threshold governments around the world have agreed we must not cross – because it could trigger things like the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, which could eventually raise sea level by as much as 7 metres and inundate major cities worldwide.

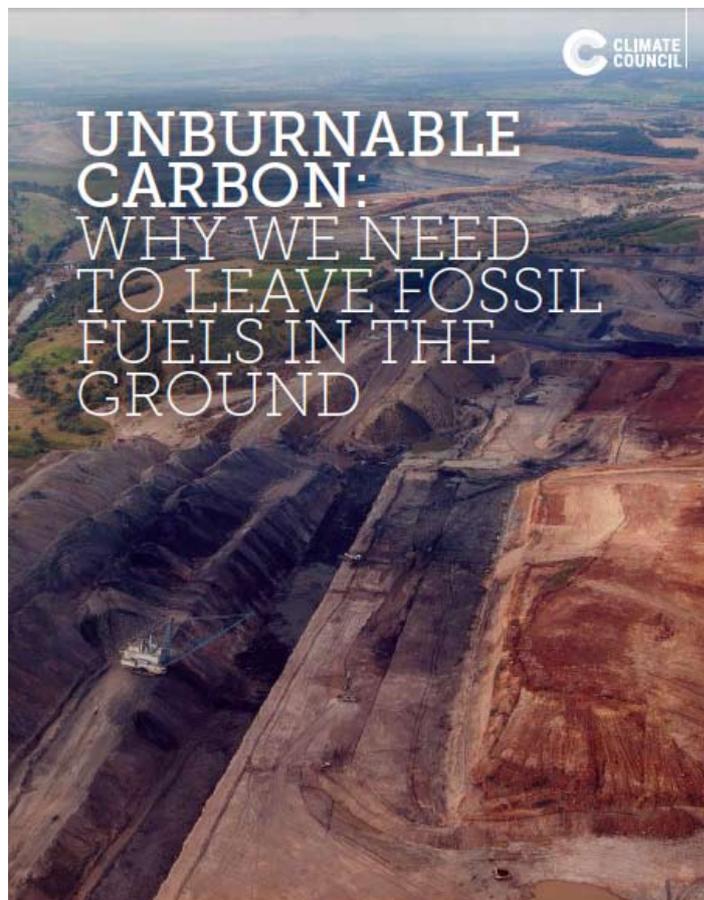
So from the pages of our newspapers to the roundtable meetings of our boardrooms and around the dinner table, it's time for all of us to start a new conversation: [click here to share this report far and wide.](#)

Written by .
Gerry Hueston,
Climate Councillor

Food Swap – Pizza Day

Last Sunday we had our annual Pizza day as part of the Food Swap and what a great day it was. The weather was perfect and we had a big turnout of over 30 people. The pizzas disappeared as quickly as we could cook them. While there were many healthy varieties, my favorite was the home made apricot jam, rhubarb and chocolate!

It was terrific to see all the things people brought along, and a special thanks to those that made the pizza bases and tomato base, and to Marina for her help making the dough and coordinating things.



The Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organisation providing quality information on climate change to the Australian public.
CLIMATECOUNCIL.ORG.AU



Friends of Montmorency Bushlands

Want to help restore and beautify our nature reserves?
To find out how, or to receive our 2015 calendar, ring
Pam on 9439 1853
or email prowley@chariot.com.au

We are now on Facebook!

facebook.com/friendsofmontmorencybushlands

Peck's Dam Works

As you know, our group has been working closely with Council and other local groups to redirect storm water into Peck's dam. Council has now completed the works and water was recently seen flowing into the dam! While the structure is currently a little intrusive, we are confident it will fit in well once the rocks weather and vegetation grows around it.

The Friends of Montmorency Bushlands is holding a working bee at the site on Saturday June 13th. This is an opportunity to view the works, have its design explained and help with revegetation.



www.transitionmonty.org

Solar Panels and Sewerage

I was made aware of this great idea in South Australia by Dave, my wind farm enthusiast who walked with me to Canberra.

In SA they have created these solar panels that float on a sewerage farm.

The solar panels are horizontal, with aluminium reflectors on each side. The whole assembly rotates during the day so that the sun is always facing directly down the axis of the panels.

The panels are water cooled. This plus the reflectors and the tracking improve performance of the panels by nearly 60%.

By covering the ponds, algae growth is also reduced.

Apparently, South Australia is now 41% renewable. Maybe we should increase the RET to 40% to encourage the rest of Australia to catch up!

Alan Cuthbertson



NEXT MCG STEERING GROUP MEETING

all members welcome

Wednesday 3 June at
Busybird Publishing
Studio Gallery
2/118 Para Road
Montmorency
7.00pm–8.30pm
(behind Walkers Wheels)

Transition Streets Challenge



Cut your bills!
Develop new skills!
Get to know neighbours!
Build neighbourhood networks!
Make a difference!

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm your
neighbour at _____. I'm looking for people to
join us in this project. If you're interested, you can contact me on
_____ or
email: _____

The Challenge offers the opportunity to come together with your neighbours and support each other to take control of your energy and water bills, learn about growing food, reducing waste, and building a more connected neighbourhood.



www.transitionbanyule.org.au



**Please send us your
contributions for the
Monty Community Group
Newsletter**

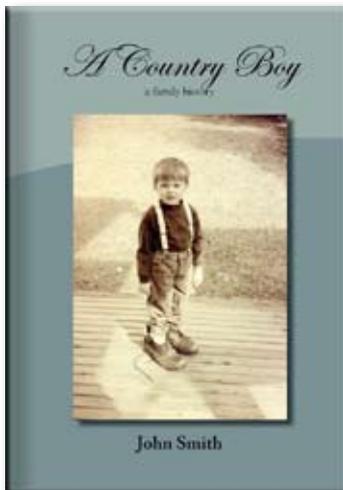
What is your burning issue?

Do you want to:

- Form an interest group?
- Write a paragraph on your favourite topic?
- Advertise a community event?

Keep the Monty Community informed.

Email us at: montymoves@gmail.com



**Have you written a book or
been thinking about it?**

Busybird Publishing can help you get your book off the ground.

See our website for details about writing and publishing workshops as well as packages for publishing your book so that you can create a lasting legacy.

www.bushbird.com.au



Vision and Purpose

Montmorency Community Group – A Transition Town

The Montmorency Community Group acts as a catalyst to bring together residents and locally-based groups that share a common goal of building a stronger more resilient local community. It utilises the Transition Town model to help create a community that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable, in the face of changes brought about by Climate Change and Peak Oil.

It achieves this through:

- awareness raising activities
- building strong networks to build an inclusive community
- undertaking practical projects to reduce our impact on the planet,
- promoting the well being of local residents.

The Montmorency Community Group is guided by principles of social justice, the valuing of differences, a respect for all views and personal and community empowerment, and principles embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human rights and The Earth Charter.



LIKE us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/MontmorencyCommunityGroup?fref=ts>

CONTRIBUTIONS to our newsletter are welcome. Please send articles of interest to the newsletter coordinator by the 10th of each month. The newsletter is issued on the 15th of the month.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is \$10 per quarter page but must be in line with the MCG ideals of community and sustainability.

Newsletter coordinator is Blaise van Hecke

Email: busybird@bigpond.net.au

Please ask permission to reproduce material. Montmorency Community Group endeavours to publish great content but holds no responsibility for opinions held or wrong information.

Montmorency Community Group Inc. Membership Form 2014–2015

You are invited to become a financial member of the Monty Community Group, by filling out this form and posting it (with your membership fee if you would like to pay by cheque) to the Monty Community Group at the address below.

Your membership will help to support initiatives of the Monty Community Group and our Transition Town program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Membership Fee: \$10 per individual/household, \$5 concession, \$25 per business.

Payment Methods: Bank Deposit: _____ Receipt Provided No. _____

Bank Account: Montmorency Community Group

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 140371089

When making a bank transfer, please ensure your name is noted so we can reconcile your payment with your application.

Payment by Cheque: _____ Payment Enclosed: \$_____

Cheques payable to: Montmorency Community Group
c/- 251 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty, 3093