

Monty Matters

**OCTOBER
2016**

Next meeting

Wednesday 5 Oct 2016,
7–9pm
at Montmorency Primary
School

60 Rattray Rd,
Montmorency 3094

Steering Group

Convenor: Alan Cuthbertson

Co-convenor: Katherine
Barling

Treasurer: Ross Woodham

Secretary: Unfilled

Editor: Unfilled

Ordinary members:

Rohan Johns

Claire Holm

Jane Oldfield

Margaret O'Dowd

Pam Rowley

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Profile: Council Candidates

As you are aware, council elections will be held on Saturday week (22nd October). We invited candidates to respond to 5 questions which we consider important:

- **What have you achieved that you are most proud of?**
- **What community involvement have you had prior or currently?**
- **How do you practice sustainability in your own life?**
- **What would you like to achieve for Montmorency?**
- **How will you assist Banyule City Council to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020?**

Responses were received from the following:

Beale Ward

Nick Brain –(Independent)

Kim Henderson—(Greens)

Hawdon Ward

Matt Goodman—(Greens)

Sonja Tepestra—(Independent)

The full responses are provided later in this newsletter (pages 5 to 9) and all are well worth reading. We had hoped to provide a summary here but to be honest this was too difficult without introducing our own values.

All respondents were keen to promote solar and other things to help address climate change. All wished to maintain the current “village atmosphere” of Montmorency.

I encourage you all to read the detailed responses so you can be better informed when voting.

Alan Cuthbertson

MONTY COMMUNITY GROUP Annual General Meeting



**Imagine Banyule
as Australia's most
sustainable city**

Saturday 22 October

**6.30pm - Bring a plate for a
shared meal**

**7.30pm - Confirmation of
Office Bearers**

**8.00-9.00pm – Guest
Speaker – Claire Holm**

Claire recently returned from a trip to Vaxjo in Sweden which is regarded as the most sustainable councils in Europe. She will talk about what she learnt plus her plans as part of her Environmental Leadership Course to propose a partnership with Banyule Council.



**Sustainable
Macleod**
www.mocg.club



Join us for the
Annual Green & Local Auction
and
the BIG Vegie Swap



Saturday, 15 October 2016
@ the Macleod Park Rotunda

BIG Vegie Swap &
Silent Auction from 11am
Live Auction from 11:45am

Proceeds support the Macleod Organic Community Garden
Proudly supported by the Macleod Village Traders

Have your say on plastic bags in Victoria

Many of us refuse plastic bags at supermarkets and fruit shops, but these ubiquitous items- designed to be thrown away after a single use- still manage to find their way in enormous numbers into the environment- across our suburbs, landscapes and waterways. Public education does not seem to be working to stop their proliferation or the harm they cause.



The Victorian Parliament is currently considering a bill to ban plastic bags and microbeads. Already the NT, SA, ACT and Tasmania have similar laws. As part of this process, they are asking the public to have their say on the topic. The more public support for a ban, the more likely it will succeed.

Their website explains how to do this: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc or you can ring (03) 8682 2829

There is a form provided for you to use and send in online- or you can write your own submission. There are guidelines on the website to advise you on this.

What you include is entirely up to you. Submissions can be brief - in fact, brief submissions are preferred.

For background information on plastic bags, you can read a fact sheet on the plastic free sea website:

<http://plasticfreesea.com.au/plastics-fact-sheet/>

Pam Rowley

Nick Brain—Independent—Beale Ward

1. What have you achieved that you are most proud of?

Becoming a father to my now three year old son, Lincoln. He is my world and I am privileged to see him transform into an empathic, loving, kind, and fun-loving little boy before my eyes.

2. What community involvement have you had prior or currently?

Being community minded, I have been involved with or volunteered for various organisations for most of my adult life. These have included Neighbourhood Watch, Banyule Toy Library, and being a Justice of the Peace. I have also previously been a legal intern for a community based clean energy lobby group, where I helped prepare a report on Wind Energy Law reform. I am also very supportive of my wife's involvement in the local Australian Breastfeeding Association group.

3. How do you practice sustainability in your own life?

Where I can, I endeavour to use public transport to and from work. My wife and I are also big supporters of clean energy, and have purchased 100% GreenPower for several years now.

4. What would you like to achieve for Montmorency?

Montmorency has a country town feeling to it, whilst still being reasonably close to the City. When I have been out talking to people, they have told me they are concerned with the consequences of a growing population and inappropriate development. They have also expressed a strong view they do not want to lose their neighbourhood character.

I oppose high density development for Beale Ward, which includes part of Montmorency. If elected as the next Ward Councillor, I would ensure Council's planning regulations sufficiently recognise wild life corridors within the area and take these into account when making decisions on permits.

5. How will you assist Banyule City Council to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020?

There's a lot of work that can be done by Council to accelerate decarbonisation efforts. For instance, I recently announced on my Facebook account, www.facebook.com/brain4beale, if elected I would advocate for an affordable rooftop solar scheme for eligible pensioners.

A number of community assets are also under-utilised with regards to their respective solar and wind resources. I understand this is in part due to barriers for clean energy producers. I would work to remove these barriers, where possible.

Kim Henderson—Greens—Beale Ward

1. What have you achieved that you are most proud of?

I have many university degrees and managed to retire before 34, but probably thing that I am proudest of is my green activism. The Greens believe in helping all people via the implementation of evidence backed-policy and with the looming threat of climate change there has never been a more pressing need for such reform. In fifty years, I can imagine watching the history channel on the 'holo virtual reality set' where they discuss the great shift of climate policy in the early 21st century and been able to say, "I helped make that happen".

2. What community involvement have you had prior or currently?

I have spent all my life in the local area. I grew up in Montmorency, went to Montmorency South primary school and then to Eltham High, so I have been involved with many clubs over the years. I am currently involved with the Eltham Speed Skating club where I skate a few times a week. Obviously I am also very heavily involved with the Banyule Greens.

3. How do you practice sustainability in your own life?

Sometimes we overlook the simple and easy things. I put on a jumper instead of heating my entire house with gas which translates into a large saving of both money and carbon. Probably the biggest difference I make in my personal life is my harassment of family. Not only is it green, but it is quite enjoyable as well! My Dad, Grandparents, Uncle and Sister all have houses in local suburbs of Eltham, Greensborough and Watsonia. Between the four houses, I have convinced them to install 18kw of solar. Ironically, due to constant shading, I can't install solar on my own house.

4. What would you like to achieve for Montmorency?

Following on from the above, I would like council to consider a program that helps residents obtain solar on their homes with little to no money up-front. Something similar to what Darebin council has achieved.

Melbourne is also becoming a more populous city and if we are to avoid an urban sprawl of massive proportions, all areas need to increase urban density. However I believe this can be best managed by heavily increasing density around transport hubs which will allow the majority of the suburbs to retain their leafy character and feeling of openness.

5. How will you assist Banyule City Council to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020?

As a Greens councillor you can always expect me to have a clear focus on how council decisions impact the environment. I would like to significantly increase the amount of electricity the council purchases from renewable sources, for both street lighting and council buildings.

Matt Goodman—Greens—Hawdon Ward

1. What have you achieved that you are most proud of?

I took over the management of a corporate kitchen which had been severely in trouble. Customers didn't like the food, staff were upset and not coming to work and it was making a loss. When I took over I replaced one member of staff, increased the quality of the food. Increased the transparency among both the customers and staff. I improved the quality of food and put my heart and soul into ensuring that everyone was having a positive experience. Profits rose back to where they were expected to be, staff were happy and consequently came to work on time and with a smile. The customers were happy, everyone was happy.

2. What community involvement have you had prior or currently?

I currently volunteer with the Salt network, who provide food for those who struggle to provide for themselves.

3. How do you practice sustainability in your own life?

As a renter, I have been unable to invest in Solar or insulation as I would have liked. I like to think that I use my skills as a chef to ensure that I prepare, preserve cook food from scratch properly so that I avoid food wastage and excess packaging. I also volunteer with the Salt network where we take food that might otherwise have been thrown away and prepare it for community meals. Finally, I belong to a The Australian Greens which I actively support and represent which has sustainability at the core of it's values.

4. What would you like to achieve for Montmorency?

To me, Montmorency has the feel of a thriving country town. Coming from the bush myself, It makes me feel comfortable and relaxed in it's quiet streets, lined with gum trees. I want to protect and enhance that natural aspect. We can't hold back the future and more people will want to share in the beauty of Montmorency and it's adjoining suburbs. As a council we can encourage them to live close to public transport so that they do not add to our congestion. We can provide sufficient lighting, good footpaths and cycle paths so that residents feel comfortable getting around. We can ensure school crossings are properly supervised and that our care facilities are properly funded and managed. Ultimately, I want Montmorency to feel like home, no matter who you are.

5. How will you assist Banyule City Council to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020?

As a green, you can expect me to always vote for council to be less damaging to the environment. I don't think that is where Councils responsibilities end however, there are many measures that council can use to make it easy for residents to transition as well. One simple thing we can do is encourage residents to put food waste in our green bins so that waste food can be turned into valuable compost instead of releasing methane from our general waste dumps. Our neighbours in Nillumbik already do this. I think Council is in a unique position to guide us all through the process of becoming carbon neutral.

Sonja Tepestra—Independent—Hawdon Ward

1. What have you achieved that you are most proud of?

This is a tough first question! I guess I'll answer the second part first. I am most proud of the community campaign I started in 2011 to campaign for reopening more schools in Heidelberg West. This community is one of the most disadvantaged in Melbourne. These children and their families need access to good quality local education. Local Children need access to good quality local public education. Education is transformational. It lifts people out of poverty, and is the great equaliser. Every child deserve to shine as their best self. This shouldn't be dependent on which post code you live in. It was a mistake for Governments to close schools in this area, and the campaign continues today.

Now I have not achieved anything - YET, as we are awaiting the outcome of the provision plan process. But we were successful in obtaining an election commitment on this issue, and it was one of the top two issues in the last State election in 2012.

It has been a very difficult fight, but I will continue with it until.....

2. What community involvement have you had prior or currently?

* Convenor, Banyule United Residents' Group - starting a Banyule residents' group to bring together groups in Banyule for greater connectivity in Banyule if they so wished. The BURG list has been a very handy resource at times, especially when the need arose to advise groups of development proposals in their area that may have caused concern.

* Convenor, Reopen Our Schools - Ongoing. See comments above under the first question.

* Secretary, Viewbank Tennis Club. I stepped down from this role to campaign for a spot on Council at the last AGM. Together, the committee has achieved much for the club and were recently successful in obtaining grant funding to replace 40 year old fences around the club;

* Secretary of Our Children Our Schools - I did this role for 12 months and only just stepped down from this role at the last AGM. This is a State wide alliance of 26 parent led grass roots campaigns - who are all campaigning for more public schools in their local areas. Reopen Our Schools was a foundation member of that alliance;

* Recently started a [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition campaigning for the protection and preservation of the historic Viewbank Grain Silos. These silos are part of one of, if not the first farm on the Yarra Plenty Rivers. The silos are iconic. One hundred people signed this petition in 2 days seeking that the Government take action to repair the silos. I am currently awaiting a briefing from Government about the status of their repair works.

Some of the other things I have been involved include being a member of Banyule Primary School Council, President of Yandell Kindergarten (Steiner Kinder in Greensborough) (many years ago now) and a volunteer and driver for Open Family, a homeless youth outreach program based in the city and around St. Kilda.

3. How do you practice sustainability in your own life?

I have kept backyard chickens for at least 20 years. It was abhorrent to me to continue to buy cage eggs from cruel farming practices. Currently, Nigella and Queenie have the run of the backyard and are very happy being free range chickens.

I grow my own fruit and vegetables. I have miniature peach and nectarine trees and larger almond and pear tree + plus the neighbour's locquat tree that is in abundance as it overhangs our fence! Hoping to get a reasonable crop from the raspberry bush, the passionfruit vine, if it ever decides to go beyond flowers to fruit and the blueberry bush has loads of flow-

Sonja Tepestra (Continued)

ers on it - fingers crossed! The mandarin tree is looking great with lots of immature fruit, and the lime tree has its very first lime on it. The lemon tree is recovering after a very harsh pruning to get rid of gall wasp. But it does look much better and more healthy. I'm looking forward to more plantings of vegetables as the weather warms up, but I do have some rather sad looking lettuce, and have just planted a tomato plant. I have an old capsicum bush from last season that was kept in a sheltered area - which has survived. I love getting the kids out for harvesting - and they love to gather up all the produce!

I also have solar panels installed for solar electricity and solar hot water, and we recycle whatever veggie scraps our chickens don't get to eat first.

We harvest rain water off our roof at home. We have large tanks under the house and at the side of our house too.

4. What would you like to achieve for Montmorency?

- Investigating how Council can embrace more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices including action on climate change

- Supporting the call for Bolton St to be declared a VicRoads road.

- Protection and preservation of our local parks

- Support for a "kiss and go zone" at Montmorency South Public school and continuing to take a stand on overcrowding of our local public schools

- Improving graffiti removal and developing more successful engagement programs to reduce the incidence of graffiti

- Responding to local traders' concerns about reduced parking availability within the Were St local shopping strip

- Ensure we get the balance right between protecting neighbourhood character and taking a responsible sustainable approach to development in Banyule

- Working to ensure support for sustainable living practices - like veggie swaps and kerb-side veggie gardens

Residents have told me how important it is to retain the village feel of Were street shopping strip. That's why I will be standing up for resident and traders's concerns and be your strong voice on Banyule Council.

5. How will you assist Banyule City Council to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020?

First of all, I believe the science on climate change. It is real, and we must take action. I support the efforts that Banyule Council has already initiated to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2020. As you can see in my priorities above, I also mention climate change, and taking steps to becoming carbon neutral as an important part of protecting our climate.

It would be an honour and a privilege to work with your group on making Banyule Council more sustainable if I am successfully elected to be Hawdon Ward Councillor for Banyule City Council. I'd also be very happy to come and address your group and speak with members if you so wish.

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

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Montmorency Community Group Inc. Membership Form 2016–2017

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