

# Monty Matters

**AUGUST  
2018**

## **Next Food Swap,**

**2nd Sept, from 10:30am to  
11:30am**

**at Monty Primary School**



## **Steering Group**

### **Convenor:**

Katherine Barling

### **Co-convenor:**

Claire Holm

**Treasurer:** Ross Woodham

### **Secretary:**

Alan Cuthbertson

### **Minute Taker:**

Margaret O'Dowd

### **Editor:**

Alan Cuthbertson

### **Ordinary members:**

Jennifer Helmich

Pam Rowley

Vicki Jordan

## **NEXT Meeting:**

Wed 5th September

### **For info, contact:**

email:

[montymoves@gmail.com](mailto:montymoves@gmail.com)

### **Mob:**

Katherine - 0413 941 170

### **Website:**

[www.transitionmonty.org](http://www.transitionmonty.org)

### **FaceBook:**

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/MontmorencyCommunityGroup)

[MontmorencyCommunityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/MontmorencyCommunityGroup)

## **Araluen Power Generation**

	July	Since Installation
Power generated	.9 Mwh	29 Mwh
Savings	\$200	\$6,200

## **What's on**

- **Mon 13th Aug**—Voting for PickMyProject (pg 2)
- **Sun 19th Aug**—Boomerang Bag Sewing day (pg 10)
- **Wed 22nd Aug**—Monty Wildlife Talk (pg 4)
- **Sun 2nd Sept** — Food Swap
- **Sat 8th/Sun 9th Sep**— Aust Plant Expo (pg 8)
- **Mon 17th Sep**—End Voting for PickMyProject (pg 2)

## **Vote for Monty Projects!**

The Pick My Project initiative from the Vic Government offers \$20 million to community based projects. To support those sponsored by the Monty Community Group, you must vote online. Check it out on Page 2!



### Community Solar Installation Project

Installing solar panels for community groups

 Heidelberg (4.1km away)

[Add to shortlist](#)



### The Banyule Sugar Glider Project

Sugar gliders will help us protect our disappearing wildlife corridors

 Saint Helena (4.8km away)

[Add to shortlist](#)

## Pick My Project

There are several groups around Monty who have submitted projects for this \$20 million state funded initiative. There are two run by Monty Community Group, and one by Sustainable McLeod. We recommend that you go online and vote for them.

Voting is complex. You must select a location and then vote for projects within 5 km. Because one project is centred at Heidelberg, one at McCleod and one at St Helena, to vote for all 3 you must set "2 main Rd., Lower Plenty" as your preferred location.

- Register at [pickmyproject.vic.gov.au](http://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au), using your actual address.
- You will receive a confirmation email. When you click on it, you will be asked to enter an address. If you use "2 main Rd., Lower Plenty" you will be able to vote for all 3 projects. According to the FAQ's this is perfectly OK.
- Vote for our 3 projects (or any other project in Monty if you prefer). This can be done by clicking the following links:
  - [Community Solar Installation](#)
  - [Banyule Sugar Gliders](#)
  - [Solar panels for IDV](#)
- Go to [My Voting Shortlist](#) and "Vote Now"



### Solar Panels for a Leading Banyule Disability Service Provider (IDV)

Bimonthly workshops at IDV explaining the solar project and benefits.

 Macleod (3.4km away)

[Add to shortlist](#)

## Profile - Purdys Furniture in Sherborne Road

Jeremy Teagle has been part of the furniture at Purdys Furniture in Sherbourne Road for 25 years, he remembers what it used to be like in its earlier form as an ever increasing series of rambling sheds filled to the brim with old stuff, a mix of lovely furniture pieces just needing a bit of TLC and some quirky bric a brac that you just couldn't leave without. Today it's a spacious modern furniture store offering custom made furniture at affordable prices with a lovely quiet cafe as well. High teas are another way to enjoy a quieter Tuesday with someone special. (See photo above) Purdys is also one of the keen sewers of Monty's newest activity boomerang bags!

Here's a few words from Jeremy:

"We just love the area of Briar Hill & it's surrounds such as Monty, Greensborough & Eltham. Purdys Furniture has definitely changed over the past 10-15 years but the honest, hardworking local people haven't and this is what makes this area such a nice place to live & work".

"As a business, we're often asked for cash donations to schools, clubs & groups and we've found the Monty Boomerang bag movement was something that we are able to help with but in a different way. Besides the environmental benefits of reducing plastic bags, it was the sheer convenience to local shoppers that attracted us to get on board. In a new era of no plastic bags, arriving at the shops 'bagless' is a real pain and to have these bags available for everyone to borrow is just a fantastic idea.





## Our wildlife are doing it tough!



**Hear about novel ways that can make a difference.**

**Meet** on Wednesday Evening 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

**When** 7pm -9.00pm. Home baked supper included  
(gold coin donation appreciated)

**Where** St Francis Xavier Parish Hall

86 Mayona Road Montmorency 3094

RSVP [montysugargliders@gmail.com](mailto:montysugargliders@gmail.com)

**Listen to a world renowned urban ecologist Dr Rodney Van Der Ree**

Followed by Jane and Richard (local zoologist) who will talk about

The Montmorency and

Banyule Sugar Glider Projects.

Have your say on the Banyule Biodiversity Plan

currently up for comment. Networking and home baked supper.

[www.transitionmonty.org/](http://www.transitionmonty.org/)



## Council Commitment to Climate Action

Did you see this in the local paper? Banyule Council have reaffirmed their commitment to climate action.

Since our Transition to a Safe Climate Conference in May, many of us from local transition town groups have been meeting with Councillors and Council Subcommittees, forming new interest groups and generally having lots of discussions on some new emerging big ideas on how to improve our impact to reduce carbon emissions and even draw carbon back to earth as we work together in new and exciting ways. There's a bunch of good ideas emerging, and we will bring these to you as the groups form and ideas formulate in coming newsletters. If you have an idea you would like to see actioned, or would like to join one of the interest groups around water, biodiversity, clean energy, food, transport, waste or other areas, please get in touch with us at [montymoves@gmail.com](mailto:montymoves@gmail.com) or call someone from the group and we will connect you.

Everyone is welcome to join one of these transition groups. ... see the international transition network website for ideas and inspiration at [www.transitionnetwork.org](http://www.transitionnetwork.org)

## Council Declaration of Climate Emergency

One project of considerable importance is that council should join with several other councils to declare a Climate Emergency. A group of us have been working on this and presented to the Banyule Environment Advisory Committee and it was well received. We plan to refine the presentation and then take it to councillors to get it presented at the council meeting, hopefully in November.

Part of the proposal is that council will then employ a person to monitor all council actions and see how they both fight climate change and prepare for the impacts of climate change. As well they will coordinate specific projects to reduce emissions from council and ratepayers and provide an education program.

Alan Cuthbertson

## Reflection on Plastic Free July Challenge

For this year I decided to undertake the now annual plastic free July challenge with a new approach. Since last year's ABC show War on Waste had made such an impact of making waste reduction and plastic waste a mainstream concern, I was interested to see what I could undertake this year that could contribute to the big picture of working towards seriously eliminating some of these problems, at least at a local level.

Here's some of the specifics I undertook:

I signed online petitions including a call for a bottle deposit scheme in Victoria, I asked at coffee places how customers can help with reducing plastic waste (the most common answer was by bringing our own cup), I read many others' posts on how they were undertaking their own plastic free July challenge and engaging local shops in allowing them to bring their own container or bag (including the butcher and bread shops in Monty), I got involved in the new **Monty Boomerang Bag initiative** ( see article below), and I still collected the soft single use plastics I couldn't avoid, and took the lot to one of those Redcycle bins in Coles or Woolies, and we discussed some of these at our end of the month plastic free lunch challenge.

At the lunch, held at Watsonia Neighbourhood House on the last Friday of July, we discussed our challenges, and what else could be done.

Here's some next steps I've taken on and will report back in future newsletters -

- seeing how we could collectively buy some tasty cheese in the round, cut up and distribute so we avoid all together the plastic wrap that's usually around cheddar
- investigate a system to bulk buy and distribute herbs and spices to avoid the 20, 50 and 100g plastic wrap that usually goes with these small amounts
- set up a forum to discuss health safety issues that arise from people wanting doggy bags for left overs at eateries, or from bringing our own bags to deli's and other places

Overall, we recognised how many things are now only in plastic and there is no alternative like there used to be, as well as some simple steps we can all take (such as taking our reusable shopping bags every time we go shopping, and taking a reusable cup when we go out - for water or hot beverages), **making beeswax wraps easily** (see [www.facebook.com/montmorencycommunitygroup](http://www.facebook.com/montmorencycommunitygroup) for our latest foodswap post ) and importantly, we noticed the value of being kind to ourselves and each other as we continue to explore ways to reduce our reliance and use of plastic at home, at work, and to the ways we can collectively support the whole community to end our dependence on plastic wrap and containers, one container at a time.

Katherine Barling

## Sugar Gliders

We are so lucky to have sugar gliders in Banyule. It is a delight to see them gliding through the trees at dusk and they don't eat our roses or vegies, just creepy crawlies and eucalyptus tree blossom. However the very old trees where they live and which form part of our wildlife corridors are fast disappearing. As a result gliders need our help. Helping them is a two way process. We provide them with strategically placed nest boxes. They occupy boxes located in the remaining wildlife corridors. We then have vital information regarding which areas should be protected in Banyule.

The Monty Biodiversity group has working on this strategy for many years with exciting results. We have seen our sugar glider community grow from nothing to 40 gliders. We also have more information about our corridors.

Thanks to a new grant called Pick my Project we now have the a potential opportunity to help other Banyule suburbs protect their wildlife but first we need your help. Visit Pg 2 which gives information on how to vote for our projects.

For further information, email [montysugargliders@gmail.com](mailto:montysugargliders@gmail.com) or Jane Oldfield from the Monty Biodiversity Group on 0412 468 432

## Doing Our Bit

If there is one thing that annoys me it is when politicians say "It doesn't matter what Australia does, we can't make any difference to Climate Change"

The best response I have heard is that Climate change is a world wide problem and can only be solved by everyone does their bit. So if 25 million Australians don't want to do their bit, they must find 25 million people elsewhere in the world, willing to do their bit plus Australia's bit.

Until we find those people, we must **DO OUR BIT**





**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO**  
native plant fair Eltham  
**8 - 9 SEPTEMBER 10am - 4pm**

**Eltham Community & Reception Centre**  
801 Main Road, Eltham

Adults \$5, Concessions \$4  
Children free

Thanks to our major sponsor:  
Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd

Organised by Australian Plants Society  
Yarra Yarra Group Inc. No. A0039676Y

## Australian Plants Expo- Eltham 8 & 9 Sept

The Australian Plant Society is again holding an Australian plants expo at Eltham's Community & Reception Centre at 801 Main Street Eltham in just a few weeks. They put on an amazing display of well known and lesser known native plants, trees, shrubs and low growers, so you can add to your garden or just window shop. There'll be books, gifts, talks, activities for children, and refreshments available. Entry is \$5 for adults, \$4 concession.

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO 2018

Native & indigenous plant stalls  
Books on related subjects  
Native flower displays - Bonsai display  
Giftware  
Children's activities  
Lots of prizes to win  
Refreshments available  
Ample parking • Wheelchair friendly

### SPEAKERS / WORKSHOPS / DEMONSTRATIONS

#### SATURDAY

10am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings  
11.15am: Botanical art workshop - Hannah Noorda  
12.30pm: Kokedama workshop with natives  
2pm: Phillip Johnson - Designing for habitat

#### SUNDAY

10am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings  
11.15am: Art demonstration - Kate Williams  
12.30am: Kokedama workshop with natives  
2pm: AB Bishop & Loretta Childs - The Habitat element in our gardens

#### Participants

Birdlife Australia  
Helene Wild giftware  
Display by APS Maroondah  
Victorian Native Bonsai Club  
Display by Karwarra Native Garden  
Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens nursery  
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary nursery  
APS Yarra Yarra growers' plants  
Goldfields Revegetation nursery  
Vaughan's Australian Plants  
Natural Plantscape nursery  
Sunvalley Plants nursery  
1st Eltham Scouts

(Program correct at time of printing)  
Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Inc.  
Inc. No.: A0039676Y  
<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au>  
[apsyarrayarra@gmail.com](mailto:apsyarrayarra@gmail.com) • M: 0430513433



## Our annual Carbon Neutral Monty Bushdance

This year marked the 8th Monty bushdance and we ramped up the celebrations with some of us having significant birthdays, we had a new band as well as a scaling up of our aim for zero waste. The feedback has been fabulous, with most comments about the welcoming, warm, friendly and fun experience for young and young at heart. We welcomed many newcomers this year as well as seeing some familiar faces returning, which are both good news.

To increase our steps to carbon neutral, we replaced table decorations with home made decor using glass fowlers jars, sticks, pictures drawn by kids to represent their version of being kind to the environment - pics of the sun, growing veggies and fruit trees, trees and more (we'll see if we can post some of these in next month's newsletter), and we borrowed fabric reusable bunting so we had no need for single-use crepe paper streamers. Our landfill waste has always been less than one small bag of non recyclables, and this year we separated out the small amount of single-use soft plastics as well.

The man new feature of our carbon reduction this year is we have bought a few hundred tube plants to plant in Rattray Reserve. The planting day will be jointly hosted with Friends of Monty Bushlands and we still have spots available.

### **Planting day at Rattray Reserve**

Saturday 8th September

10am to 12 noon

morning tea provided by Banyule Council rangers

please email Pam at [prowley@chariot.com.au](mailto:prowley@chariot.com.au) for further details or to register your interest

**If you have any photos** from the bushdance, please email to us at [montymoves@gmail.com](mailto:montymoves@gmail.com) and we'll put a selection together on our website.

## Boomerang Bags

Last month we wrote about the new movement in Monty and where you can connect with Monty traders and with lovely locals Megan, Robin, Yvette and many others at the monthly sewing bee at Max's Burger Bar - Third Sunday of the month. This month we can also let you know the initiative has been so successful we can't keep up with the demand... so please bring any bags back, or even any spare reusable bags and pop them in the box at Foodworks, join in for this month's sewing bee, or come and help with ironing or cutting out or just join in... a fun morning and a great bunch of locals to enjoy this with... cuppa included.

Find Monty Boomerang Bags at [www.facebook.com/MontyBoomerangBags](http://www.facebook.com/MontyBoomerangBags) and check out other local groups at [www.facebook.com/BanyuleBoomerangBags](http://www.facebook.com/BanyuleBoomerangBags) including a new week day group at GreenHills Neighbourhood House.



### **The next sewing bee at Max's Burger Bar is on Sunday 19 August, from 9 to noon**

Join the next sewing bee at Max's Burger Bar at the top of Were Street on Sunday 19 August, and hear about plans for a mural, connections with schools and some fun new ideas for making more bags that are fast becoming a special part of our Monty.

Katherine Barling



**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.

Please email to [montymoves@gmail.com](mailto:montymoves@gmail.com) and send a copy to the Editor [alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au](mailto:alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au) .

Please use the subject line "Newsletter - (then add anything else after that)

**ADVERTISING**

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

Newsletter coordinator is Alan Cuthbertson

Email: [alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au](mailto:alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au)

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## **Montmorency Community Group Inc. Membership Form 2018–2019**

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  
PO Box 87 Montmorency 3094