



MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

www.transitionmonty.org

April 2016

Featuring

- Meet Your Community
- Asylum Seekers Garage Sale
- Litter problem
- Pizza Swap
- Solar Panels
- Sugar Gliders
- Petition
- Classifieds

Next meeting

Wednesday 4 May 2016,
7–9pm
at Busybird Publishing
2/118 Para Road
Montmorency 3094

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

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.



Meet Your Community

How did the MASSG start and what do we do?

About 14 years ago a small group of friends were meeting in Were Street for coffee and discussed the situation for asylum seekers in Australia. The idea that in a land of plenty like Australia, people could go without decent food was deeply shocking to them. But this is the case for many asylum seekers living in the community while they wait for their asylum application to be heard. So the group decided they would like to do something. They met monthly at various venues and each brought along a bag of non-perishable food which was donated to the Asylum Seekers' Resource Centre.



The food bank at ASRC

Since then, members have visited the ASRC and were deeply inspired by the work that is done there. As the group's numbers grew, fund raising became more important. Annual lunches with excellent speakers have been tremendously successful, with thousands of dollars raised for the ASRC.

While we still donate regularly to the ASRC food bank, our supporters have become more involved in a variety of activities and projects. Please read about “What We Do” on the website. We are sure you will be very impressed and hope that you can join in.

For example, in 2014 a Letter Writing Group started with a core of three people, to convey our opinion on government policies. This group meets most months at people’s homes. As well as dozens of joint letters, hundreds of messages on postcards have been sent to politicians. We have also tried to counter the misinformation often spread through the media about asylum seekers, by producing our own information brochures. Please contact Barbara Jackson on 9444 7773 if you would like to join the Writing Group.

Overall, support for the MASSG has grown substantially over the past few years, with over 40 on our mailing list. We believe this reflects changing attitudes of the general public and a desire for a more humane approach to asylum seekers. The “Let Them Stay” campaign has been very successful and at recent rallies we noticed a change in mood to a more definite feeling of “this can’t go on”. Perhaps we are reaching a tipping point – we hope so.

After many years, we continue to hold our monthly meetings, now at Montmorency Uniting Church on the third Monday of each month at 1.30 PM. We encourage new members to join us. Please ring Maree Krohn on 9432 0190 to confirm the place and time of the meeting. If you would like to stay up to date through our newsletter, please call Maree to be put on the mailing list and/ or ask for our Myths and Facts brochure.

Pam

MASSIVE GARAGE SALE HELPS ASYLUM SEEKERS

In March, MASSG hosted a massive garage sale at Monty Uniting Church. It was wonderful to see the enormous community support for this fundraiser, both from volunteers and from donors. Both the quantity and quality of the items donated show the great generosity of Monty residents and their willingness to help vulnerable people in great need.

Over two days, 38 volunteers transported, sorted and sold thousands of donated items for the garage sale. The extraordinary sum of \$4,400 was raised in 6 hours and all the proceeds went to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. Items left over were donated to local charities such as the Salvation Army, Diamond Valley Oxfam and 3081 Angels.



Special thanks and congratulations must go to Barbara Jackson, who was the inspiration behind this event. Barbara was involved with collecting, sorting and storing items as well as planning, coordinating and supervising the many tasks involved to make this project so successful.

If you missed the garage sale, but would still like to give your support, we have several other fundraising opportunities planned for the coming months. Our main purpose is to raise funds for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and we invite you to join any or all of these events. Please make a note of them in your diary. See future newsletters for details.

21st May: Film night. “Frame by Frame”

18th June: Friendship concert

26th August: Annual Luncheon with guest speaker

23rd November: Theatre night – Heidelberg Theatre Company

You can also ask to be put on our mailing list (contact Margaret at tmpinniger@exemail.com.au) or check our Facebook page by typing “montmorency asylum seekers support group” in your internet browser.

Pam

Is there a solution to the litter problem?

Thanks to all those who made such a difference to the quantity of litter in our suburb by participating in "Clean up Australia Day". This year I did not participate, because the way I see it, I've already done my share of picking up litter. Whenever I do my regular walks along streets and walking trails and through our reserves I am on the look out for litter and usually come home with an armful.

The 3 most common forms of litter I find are plastic bottles, drink cans and plastic bags – all single use items. Not just an ugly phenomenon and environmentally damaging, but a complete waste of natural resources as well. It is interesting to note that single-use plastic bags are banned in France, Italy and Hawaii and many countries in Africa. The states of SA, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT all have bans too, but there is no law in Victoria. It is only just now being considered here.

Then there is the drink can deposit scheme. This exists in SA and the NT, but when a national scheme was suggested, Coca Cola and other companies opposed it and it has not been implemented. At St Kilda beach, volunteers pick up about 40kg of rubbish every time they sweep the forshore and 20% of that consists of drink cans. The Clean Up Australia director has said, "We are embarrassed. It's a disgrace. We are so spoilt here in Australia because we live in this country of high convenience. We expect someone to look after our waste disposal because we are a wealthy nation".

But currently the most common item I pick up is definitely the plastic drink bottle. Why can't we manage to carry this item home or to the nearest bin or just take our own durable water bottle? Must our law makers ban plastic bottles as well?

Though an admirable community event, Clean Up Australia Day is no solution to the litter problem and without more responsible behaviour by the public all year, the only solution must lie in restrictive legislation.

Pam

Friends of Montmorency Bushlands

Want to help restore and beautify our nature reserves?

To find out how, or to receive our 2016 calendar, ring

Pam on 9439 1853

or email prowley@chariot.com.au

We are now on Facebook!

facebook.com/friendsofmontmorencybushlands

EVENTS

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 2 April

10am–12noon

Belmont Reserve Map 21
F6

Direct Seeding: From
previously collected native
seeds through both bollard
areas

ENQUIRIES:

**Ratray, Belmont and
Wooded Way Reserves**

Contact: Pam on 94391853

or Julia on 94392378

Pecks Dam

Contact George on
94397375

Monty Food Swap

Sunday 3 April

10.30–11.30am

Monty Primary School

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group

Location: Uniting Church,
cnr Mountainview Rd and
Ratray Rd

or Monty Primary School

Convenor: Maree Krohn

9432 0190, maree.krohn@bigpond.com

Open Mic Night

Busybird Publishing

Wednesday 20 April

7–9pm

2/118 Para Road

Montmorency

Entry \$5.

Read your poetry, stories,
sing us a song.

www.transitionmonty.org

Food Swap – Pizza Day – 1st May



Next Month, our food swap on 1st May will be our famous wood fired pizzas at the Montmorency Primary School. So, come along and bring your special pizza topping and join in with everyone. We always have some novel combinations including rhubarb, Feijoa and chocolate and even chili, basil and chocolate. The artichoke pizza and the homemade cheese are also a favorite.

So come and see if we can make an even more exciting pizza this year!

Imbedded Energy of Solar Panels

I was asked recently to comment on the suggestion that the production of solar panels is so emission intensive that the emissions saved through switching from coal to solar power would not make up for this over the lifetime of the panels.

While this is a valid question it is far from the truth. A full life cycle analysis of the imbedded energy of panels is beyond my skills, but a “back of the envelope” calculation shows it is wrong.

1 Kw of panels costs around \$1,000 and over 13 years will generate 20,000 Kwh.

Let's assume for the moment that all of the emissions from producing panels comes from the power used to make them. This would mean it must take 20,000 kwh to make them. Assuming the power costs 10 cents/kwh, the energy cost for production would be \$2,000, so they are hardly likely to sell them for \$1,000!

There is a more detailed discussion in the ATA magazine last month. If you have a copy it is well worth a read. They come up with a figure of 18 months. I also know a chap who supplies panels. He says that half of the imbedded energy is in the aluminium frame. Newer designs are now “glued” to the roof and so have no aluminium frame. These have a payback of 9 months

Alan Cuthbertson

Sugar Gliders move in!

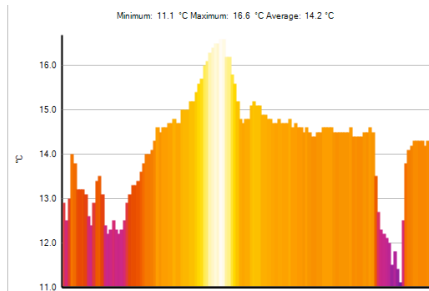
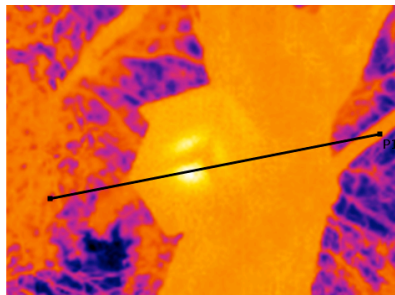
Last Sunday, 7 of us used our new found skills of tree climbing to visit most of the nesting boxes we installed last year with some amazing results! We visited 21 boxes and found over 7 of them containing sugar gliders! Most contained more than one sugar glider so there is now a thriving population.

What was also of interest was that we could tell that a further 6 boxes had been regularly occupied by a sugar glider since the loose material we put in originally had been neatly rearranged to make a comfortable bed. This is common for sugar gliders as they like to move between homes.



On Monday, we visited all of the boxes early in the morning and used our thermal camera to see if we could detect the sleeping gliders. We were able to easily detect the boxes that were occupied which is a really great result. We are now confident that we can make a quick check of boxes without climbing the tree and disturbing them. You can see in the thermal image that the corner of the box is 2 degrees warmer than the rest of the box

If you would like to purchase a sugar glider box for \$25 please email Jane.montysugargliders@gmail.com.



If you already have a glider box and would like us to check for an occupant, also contact Jane.montysugargliders@gmail.com.



LIKE us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MontmorencyCommunityGroup?fref=ts>

PETITION TO SAVE 2 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Have you heard that both the Volunteers of Banyule and the Support and Information Centre in Heidelberg are to close? Essential Council funding has been stopped and the Volunteers of Banyule office will close at the end of June.

Many of you would know of Volunteers of Banyule as the office that keeps a register of community organisations and the place you can go to find opportunities for volunteering. This free service helps find volunteers for 180 organisations in Banyule.

The Support and Information Centre is on a corner in Burgundy Street, Heidelberg, and it is my favourite place to go every December to buy charity cards and a charity Christmas cake. It provides a vast range of information, advice and support for our community.

A petition to keep these 2 services open is circulating and you will find a copy with this newsletter.

Please note: This is not an online petition. Please print it off and circulate it for signatures.

Signatories must live in the City of Banyule and must give their residential address.

Please submit the petition by the end of April. You can either post your results directly to Jenny Macklin's office or pass them on to me to deliver (88 Airlie Road, Montmorency 3094).

It would be very beneficial if residents could also write/email their objections directly to the Council – preferably to our Council representative, Steve Briffa or to the mayor, Craig Langdon

Addresses for letters

Steve Briffa, Councillor for Hawdon Ward

Banyule City Council

PO Box 51

Ivanhoe 3079

Mayor Craig Langdon

Banyule City Council

PO Box 51

Ivanhoe 3079

Email craig.langdon@banyule.vic.gov.au

Pam Rowley

Petition to Banyule City Council

Date	22 March 2016
Petition Organiser	Jenny Macklin MP
Address	149 Burgundy Street Heidelberg Vic 3084
Telephone number	9459 1411

We, the undersigned, petition or request Council to maintain crucial ongoing funding for Volunteers of Banyule and Banyule Support and Information Centre (BANSIC).

The work undertaken by these great organisations to the ultimate benefit of the Banyule community must be supported by Council in a permanent, ongoing way.

Please provide these great organisations with the funding certainty they need.

Name	Address	Signature
Number of signatures on page		



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

What is your burning issue?

Do you want to:

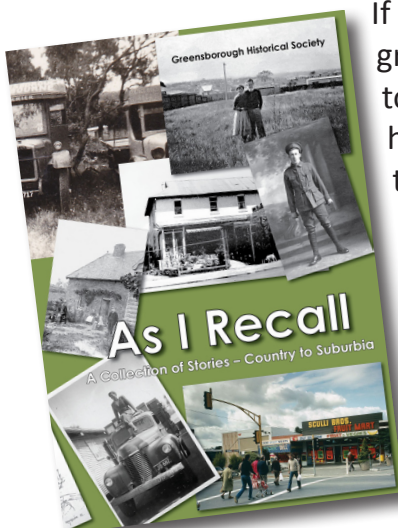
- Form an interest group?
- Write a paragraph on your favourite topic?
- Advertise a community event?

Keep the Monty Community informed.

Email us at: montymoves@gmail.com

Busybird Publishing

Looking for a publisher for your book?



If you are part of a group that wants to write about its history or want to celebrate a milestone? Drop by our studio for a chat about your project and we'll help you get that book in your hand.

Busybird Publishing
2/118 Para Road (cnr Station Road)
Montmorency VIC 3094.

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.

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 2015–2016

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