



MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

www.transitionmonty.org

August 2015

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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.



Bush Dance

Our annual Bush Dance was on 8th August and everyone had a great evening. Unfortunately we did not have as many people as last year and so only just broke even. The Shenanigans band played for us and all the parents and kids had a wonderful time.

During the night we all learnt the old time dance steps and ended up exhausted by the end. We were especially impressed with the children who all joined in with the older ones helping and encouraging the younger ones.

There was a plate and several red tea towels left. Contact me if they are yours.

Alan Cuthbertson





Change Makers Evening

On July 15th, Banyule Council organised a Change Makers Evening when they invited people involved in environmental issues to get together. Our group was well represented and we all found it very useful. We got to meet all the people we already knew and meet a few new contacts.

It was also a great opportunity to highlight some of the achievements of the group. Jane Oldfield was invited to present to the group on the Biodiversity Group and its Sugar Gliding Project. Jane gave a most entertaining and enjoyable talk which rivaled that of the main guest speaker, Sean Wilmore who talked about his work for the Thin Green Line. One photo showed a bush tailed possum trying to enter a log that was too small for him.

Alan Cuthbertson

Sustainable House Day

Once again I have decided to open my house on Sunday 13th September as part of Sustainable House Day. On this day, many houses around Melbourne are open to the public highlighting ways to make homes more environmentally sustainable.

Houses are generally open from 10:00 until 16:00

I will be demonstrating some normal energy efficiency items such as double glazing, but will also talk about other unusual ideas such as my hot box on the roof or bubble wrap double glazing. You can also check my special energy and time saving device. It saves me \$500 a year in time and energy. I will also be demonstrating the thermal camera that we use for doing energy assessments.

http://sustainablehouseday.com/house-profile-view/?house_id=11686

You can also visit Alan Leenarts house in Briar Hill. He has lot's of different things including off grid PV with battery and a large stack of old roof tiles under the house which he uses to cool the house in summer:

http://sustainablehouseday.com/house-profile-view/?house_id=9438

Alan Cuthbertson



SHD Homeowner & Group Update

I'll be opening my home for the Sustainable House Day. New features for 2015 include a double insulated front door, double insulated hot water storage, completed sky wall (9m²) a new DIY solar furnace space heating (20 kW) and a solar coffee table. In the garden there are fruit trees and an edible garden. There is a frog bog, bird baths, insect hotels, bat boxes, bird boxes, possum boxes, and a lizard grotto. This house is primarily a retro fit demonstration that answers the question "What can we do with our existing homes and what should we do first?" It demonstrates what can be done cheaply/DIY with a standard brick veneer to make it 8.4 stars. Utility bills, building performance and methodology will be on display.

The basics illustrate low energy square design with good cross ventilation, shading, water tanks, seasonal/ adjustable solar exposure, super insulation, organic waste, and zoning options. Novel technologies (things not common in other low energy houses) include ground coupled geothermal cooling using recycled roof tiles, solar space heating using colorbond roof, off grid PV with battery storage, on grid PV maximised for winter gain and subfloor refrigeration booster. Super insulation is used (slab/ducts/skylights/windows) retro fit thermal mass, dual system grey water reuse, retrofit solar hot water, plug in hybrid Prius conversion (ethanol/ electric) electric bike, Sky- wall, Olive Pit heater for zero carbon heating, heat pump hot water, real time power metering, thermal camera demonstration, 2x active/passive solar chimney and solar furnace demonstration.

Alan Leenaerts

Banyule City Council Meetings

Items of interest for the Montmorency Community

From the meeting of 20 July 2015.

MONTMORENCY SUGAR GLIDER PROJECT

Cr Craig Langdon acknowledged the great work that Jane Oldfield and her group are doing to save and protect the Sugar Glider in Montmorency.

INDIAN MYNA BIRDS

It was resolved that Council Officers prepare a report for consideration by Council on possible options for dealing with the treatment of Indian Myna Birds. The report should include:

- examples of approaches used by local and other sectors of government; and
- suggested options and costs for possible eradication programs.

(Moved: Cr Jenny Mulholland; Seconded: Cr Craig Langdon and CARRIED)

From the meeting of 3 August 2015.

A request to seal Hughes Street and Deirdre Court, Montmorency was received in early 2015. Property owners' views were sought on the possibility of sealing both the roads and closing Hughes Street at Baldwin Avenue but a majority of property owners did not support the sealing of the roads but did support the closure of Hughes Street.

It was resolved that Council: (1) Initiate a traffic management trial by closing temporarily (for 3 months) Hughes Street, Montmorency, between Deirdre Court and Baldwin Avenue, following consultation with property owners and occupiers of properties on Hughes Street and requesting a report from VicRoads on the proposal. (2) Notify owners and occupiers of affected properties. (3) Following the trials, consult and survey local owners/occupiers on the possibility of a permanent closure and its location with the results being reported back to Council at a future meeting. (Moved: Cr Wayne Phillips; Seconded: Cr Tom Melican and CARRIED)

Report with thanks to Ian Endersby

Pecks Dam- Update for community

At the next working bee at Pecks Dam, we will be joined by a speaker from Banyule City Council who will give a talk to update the community on the new stormwater diversion project at the dam. The working bee will begin at 10am. We will be doing infill planting around the dam, continuing on from the June working bee. This will be followed by morning tea for the workers.

If you want to know how the project is progressing and how the filtration unit operates, keep this date free: Saturday September 5th. Enquiries- George Stolfo on 94397375



EVENTS

Open Mic Night

Wednesday 19 August
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.

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 5 September
10am – 12 noon
Pecks Dam
Map 21, F7
Planting: infill planting of
remaining plants

ENQUIRIES:

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

Pecks Dam

Contact George on
94397375

Food Swap

Sunday 6 September
10.30–11.30am
Monty Primary School

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group

Monday 21 Sept 1.30pm
Location: Uniting Church,
cnr Mountainview Rd and
Ratray Rd
or Monty Primary School
Convenor: Maree Krohn
9432 0190, maree.krohn@
bigpond.com

Sustainable House Day

Sunday 13 September
10.00–4.00pm

FOMB Annual Excursion

For our annual excursion, Friends of Monty Bushlands has arranged a guided tour of the revegetation project along the Yarra in Bulleen, in the vicinity of the Bulleen Art and Garden Nursery. This area has been extensively planted out to bring back the indigenous vegetation on the banks and nearby river flats. Our guide, Glenn will explain the progress of this project. The talk will be followed by a walk to Banksia Park and a picnic lunch. All welcome.

Date: Sunday October 18th

Place: Bolin Bolin/ Bulleen section of Yarra Valley Parks

Time: meet at 10am

NB: No pets

RSVP Pam on 94391853

Plastic Free July Challenge

The challenge for July was to take on living with limited or eliminating plastic from our lives for a day, a week, the month, or longer. Some of us took up the challenge to avoid the 4 biggies altogether (plastic straws, plastic single use drink bottles, take away coffee cups and plastic shopping bags). Some more adventurous souls undertook to eliminate other plastics from their lives too: plastic wrap, plastic wrap on shopping items, politely declining a plastic bag from shops that normally put your produce in a plastic bag (such as at the bread shop) and much more.

The wrap up event (excuse the pun) was held at the Rosanna Library, and those who attended brought along many versions of plastic they found difficult to avoid, and the rich discussion of what to do was enjoyed by all.

What I experienced was a month of noticing all the single use plastic I didn't avoid. Here's a brief list: plastic around the recycled toilet paper, plastic wrap around the neck of sauce bottles, plastic bags for bread that had holes in it so I couldn't reuse a second time, plastic wrap over the dog food (I was looking after a friend's dog for a while), plastic wrappings around pre-packaged biscuits, plastic bags with meat from the butcher (and noting it's a health thing for them, as they can't put the meat in my recycled plastic bags as that might contaminate other meats.) Fair enough on some counts. All this did was confirm to me that there's some things that are solid for me, such as:

- I avoid the need for cling wrap by wrapping a platter in a tea towel or arranging the platter when I arrive at my destination, or taking a one pot casserole.
- I make the time to sit at a cafe with a ceramic cup for my coffee, or go without, if I don't have my "keep cup" with me.
- I take my own shopping bags and keep one in my back pack or handbag at all times.
- I drink water out of a cup or glass, and I decline the offer of a straw.
- I've undertaken to learn more about what we call "re-cycling" and how much of it isn't re-cycling it's actually "down-cycling" where the next product made can't be recycled or down cycled in any way, and is therefore one step away from landfill.

And best of all, undertaking the plastic free july challenge has connected me with others who are passionate about reducing our waste and aiming for a zero to landfill lifestyle.

see more at <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org> and an inspiring Aussie retailer in Perth <http://www.wastelesspantry.com.au>

and we may even show the movie again ... it was rather inspiring, and we can all do with an extra shot of that!

Katherine

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

Diamond Valley Learning Centre in Greensborough

one of our local neighbourhood houses



Hi, it's Katherine Barling here. I've been living in Banyule almost all my life, in leafy Macleod for nearly 30 years and Monty before and since. I grew up in Monty and went to Monty Primary School before I travelled for secondary school on the 7.26am train in that big adventure of my teen years. I've been involved in many aspects of community life as my parents and grandparents did (contributing to the building of the Scout Hall, setting up St Faith's kinder and parent committees at school, starting and later moving the RSL from the Rattray Road Hall to Petrie Park, are some). I love this part of Melbourne for the hills and views, for the leafy ancient trees (there's still a few around) and the amazing wildlife that we are still honoured to share with in our little patch of Melbourne. It's the community aspect of living in this area that gives me hope for the future of our planet. The Transition Town worldwide movement gives me a positive vision of the future we can create together, and together we are making it happen. What's not to love!

I also have the privilege of working in this community, in something else I'm really passionate about – community education. I work at the Diamond Valley Learning Centre, based in the 100 year old kiosk near the Plenty River in Greensborough, was formed in 1973, and has been providing education and learning opportunities for locals in many forms since then. Currently we have a VCAL program for young people, EAL classes for adults learning English, Certificate Courses for those interested in employment and career pathways, and many interest courses over the years that have engaged and interested members of our passionate local community (including me!).

In 2015 DVLC became a sustainable living hub. We aim to make our little patch of Melbourne a better place to live through activities that celebrate a sustainable lifestyle. Inspired by this we have designed a range of activities and promote those of others in the area (Transition Towns, Edendale Farm, Local Food Connect, Friends groups etc). It really is all connected! Check our website for updated information and additional events. www.dvlc.org.au

Here's a course that's coming up that might interest you. Or come and visit us, and see our large sustainable living hub board. Bring a flyer for your local group to display. Or email me at katherine.barling@dvlc.org.au

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS:

www.transitionmonty.org

Living Sustainably in Community

Due to popular demand this weekend workshop will be back in 2015 on the weekend of September 5th and 6th, and an optional excursion on Monday 7th September.

Learn how ecovillages, co-housing and other forms of living together in conscious ways, can help us live a more sustainable life.

Hear about tools to live more sustainably, and share your own. A visit to a local co-housing community is included for \$120 (or \$103 concession).

See <http://dvlc.org.au/courses/living-sustainably-in-community/>

"We cannot just add sustainable development to our current list of things to do but must learn to integrate the concepts into everything that we do."

(from The Dorset Education for Sustainability Network)

Monty Primary School Volunteers Sought

Monty Primary School are delighted with their new school. Attention is now turned to planting out the garden around the new buildings and this is now starting with an indigenous garden and a new frog bog. Can you lend a hand for weeding on Thursday 20th or Friday 21st August to help with weeding and preparing the soil, and/or Tuesday 25th August or Tuesday 1st September for the first plantings of an amazing array of indigenous plants donated to the school?

This is part of a vision to build an indigenous garden that honours the seasons recognised by indigenous people of the area long before there was a school. For more information see:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/forest/climate/kulin.html>

or a thorough representation with further resources (especially interesting for the children) at

http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/uploads/Seasonal_Cycles_in_Australia.pdf

Also, do you know someone locally who may have a few hours to assist every Tuesday in the garden or the kitchen for their inspiring and very successful Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Programme (SAKGP)? It's an opportunity to share an enjoyment of cooking or gardening with eager young students, and learn from the teachers and other volunteers as well. Please contact Julie or Michelle at the office on 9434 5944.

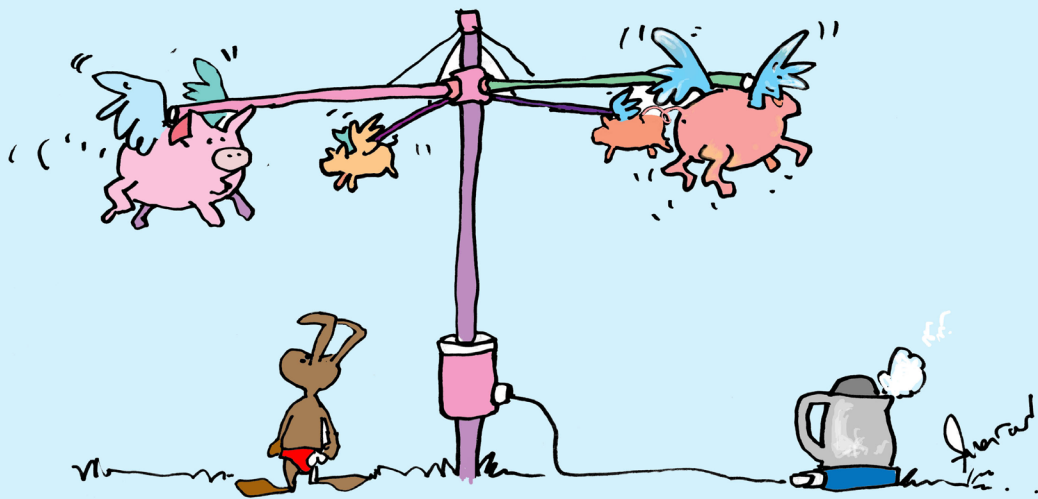
NEXT MCG STEERING GROUP MEETING

all members welcome

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

An example of emerging technology
approved of by the Abbot Government

Not recommended for
domestic roof top use.



Busybird Book Swap

Just like a library, it's free. The difference is that it's open 24 hours a day and to take a book out, you need to put a book in.



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

www.bushbird.com.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



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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