



# MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

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

July 2014

## Featuring

- Gardeners' Almanac
- Almanac Launch
- Local Food Connect
- Seed Tips
- Asylum Seekers
- Climate Change Initiative
- Classifieds

## *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.

## Steering Group

**Convenor:** Alan Cuthbertson

**Co-convenor:**

Katherine Barling

**Treasurer:** Kate Landers

**Secretary:** Pam Rowley

**Member Secretary:**

Alison Johns

**Ordinary members:**

Barbara Jackson

Rohan Johns

Blaise van Hecke

Karl Bates

Margaret O'Dowd

Jane Oldfield

## For info, contact:

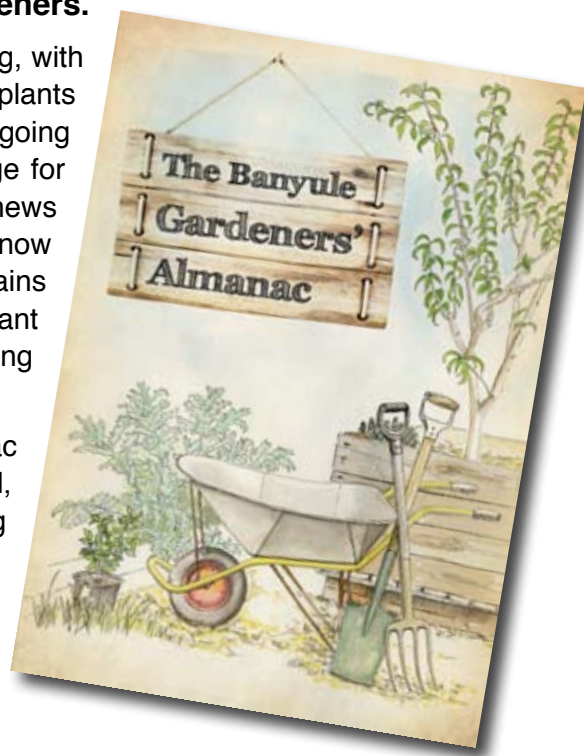
montymoves@gmail; or  
phone Alan on 9439 8205 or  
Katherine on 0439 652 680

## Meet Your community

### Good news for home vegie gardeners.

Home vegetable gardening is booming, with most nurseries now selling more food plants than ornamentals. However getting going can sometimes be a bit of a challenge for those new to gardening. The good news is that a recently published booklet is now available to help. Better still, it contains information that's particularly relevant to Banyule and Nillumbik gardening conditions.

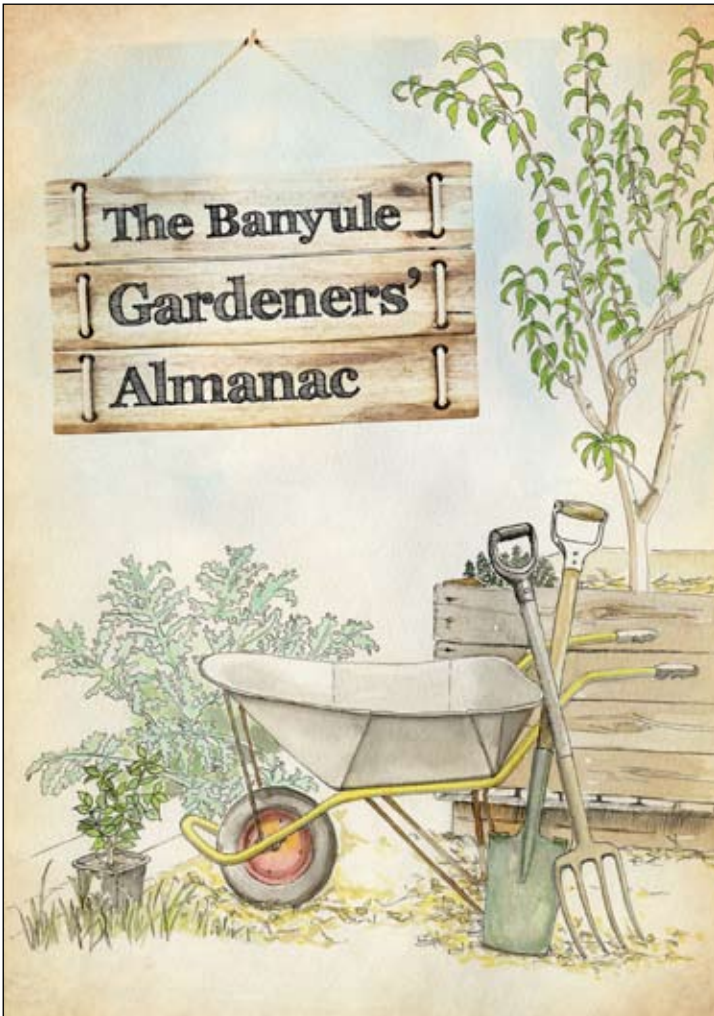
The Banyule Gardeners' Almanac provides gardening tips on soil, growing vegies from seed, dealing with common garden pests, attracting beneficial insects and a lot more. It also has a month by month listing of what to plant, key gardening tips and space to record your own gardening efforts.



The Almanac came about when a group of gardeners attending the

Montmorency Food Swap, began recording what they planted and harvested each month and the key tasks they undertook on a seasonal basis. Assisted with a grant from Banyule Council and the contribution of drawings by local artist Felicity Gordon, a small editorial group worked to put together all of this information into this practical booklet.

It is available through food swaps at Montmorency, Macleod and Olympic Village, Edes & Bibi in Montmorency, The Little Organic Shop in Hurstbridge, the Eltham Farmers' Market and Bulleen Art and Garden and sells for \$5 a copy or by contacting Julie on 0438 115 853. The Mayor, Cr Langdon, will officially launch the almanac at the Busybird Gallery in Montmorency on 30 July.



**An invitation to  
Montmorency Community Group's  
official launch of  
The Banyule Gardeners' Almanac**

**Date: Wednesday 30th July 2014 6pm—7.30pm**

**Location: Busybird Publishing Studio Gallery  
2/118 Para Road Montmorency 3094**

Come and join us to celebrate the launch of this wonderful publication and enjoy some local wine and nibbles made with locally grown produce.

This Almanac is proudly supported by Banyule Council



RSVP to Kate on 0438 009 287 or Julie 9434 7605 for catering purposes  
An initiative of the Montmorency Community Group [www.transitionmonty.org.au](http://www.transitionmonty.org.au)

**NEXT MCG STEERING  
GROUP MEETING**

**all members welcome**

Wednesday 6 August at  
Busybird Publishing  
Studio Gallery  
2/118 Para Road  
Montmorency  
7.00pm–8.30pm

# Local Food Connect

"Creating a vibrant local food culture for health, environment and community"

## Do you know any local Banyule producers?

Local Food Connect (LFC) is a not-for-profit, community group which connects local growers and eaters. It operates mainly in the Nillumbik and Banyule areas, and encourages, supports and promotes events, actions and enterprises which help to put your food back into your control.

One of the projects it's currently engaged in is building a directory of businesses that grow food locally, make products from local ingredients or stock locally produced foods.

If you know of any businesses based in Banyule that focus on growing or sourcing local produce, please let LFC know so they can be added to this very useful resource. You can do this by calling Guy on 0411 520 850, and letting him know the business name and contact number.

## Want some tips on how to grow vegies from seed?

August is the time to start planning and planting for spring and autumn and the August Monty Food Swap will help you do just this.

Back by popular demand, Robin from Macleod Vegie Swap will talk about how to successfully grow vegetables from seed. She will cover:

- planting in punnets and planting directly,
- seed raising mixes ,
- tips for successful germination, and
- protection from birds and the impact of various types of soil.

Robin is an experienced gardener, and for many years ran the first herb and cottage plant nursery in Tasmania. She has an extensive vegetable garden and orchard in Macleod.

This not to be missed talk will follow the Food Swap from 11.30 to 12.30 on Sunday, 3 August, and will be held at Montmorency Primary School.

## EVENTS

### Open Mic Night

Busybird Publishing  
Studio Gallery

2/118 Para Road

Montmorency 3094

Wednesday 16 July

7.00pm-9.00pm

Entry by gold coin donation,  
includes supper.

For more information call

Blaise on 0416 157 281.

### Monty Food Swap

Sunday 3 August

10.30-11.30am

Followed by Garden Talk

Montmorency Primary  
School

### Friends of Monty Bushlands (FOMB)

Saturday 2 August

10.00am-12.00noon

Ratray

MAP 21 E6

Meet at Top of Reserve:

Infill planting through open  
section (BBQ)

Contact Pam on 9439 1853  
or [prowley@chariot.com.au](mailto:prowley@chariot.com.au)

### MONTY BUSH DANCE

Saturday 9 August

**SOLD OUT!!**

## Do you have a spare room in your home?

Would you like to make an asylum seeker feel welcome by offering them practical support and providing temporary accommodation?

The ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) is currently looking for homes for asylum seekers who are homeless and unable to support themselves financially.

Many asylum seekers are unable to earn an income due to having no work rights and/or being ineligible for funded asylum seeker support services. The number of people that this affects is increasing so more creative housing solutions are required. To meet this need the ASRC is piloting a housing project that will see asylum seekers matched with members of the community who will have the opportunity to actively welcome and integrate asylum seekers into the community whilst being involved in providing the practical solution of a safe and secure housing option (for 3 month periods).

If you are interested, please contact me on 94391853 or [prowley@chariot.com.au](mailto:prowley@chariot.com.au) and I will send you more information.

**Pam Rowley**

**MASSG**



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**Web site: [www.diydoublinglaze.com.au](http://www.diydoublinglaze.com.au)**

## UNLOCK the WRITER in YOU

17–19 October 2014

**What is the key to transforming your ideas and  
experiences into compelling and engaging stories?**

No matter what vision you have for your writing, you can move beyond self-doubt and procrastination to fully express your writer's voice with the help of industry professionals.

- ✦ Discover the ancient form of storytelling
- ✦ Create characters that are interesting but real
- ✦ Write prose that is magnetically engaging
- ✦ Learn good writing practice
- ✦ Learn about structure in story
- ✦ Participate in 'table talk' to grow your ideas
- ✦ Learn how to polish your work, ready to publish
- ✦ Leave with all the tools needed to write your story.

**What is your legacy?** This program will help you discover it. Join this small group at the gorgeous Karma Kinglake 17–19 October.

**Only \$950 (includes GST)**

All accommodation and meals included.

**Contact Blaise for more details:**

**T:** 03 9434 6365

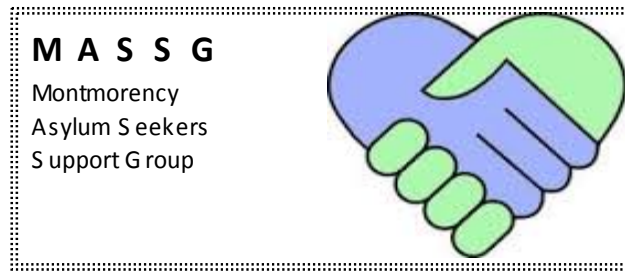
**E:** [busybird@bigpond.net.au](mailto:busybird@bigpond.net.au)

**W:** [www.busybird.com.au](http://www.busybird.com.au)



**Your writing journey is about to begin.  
If not now, when?**





**Invites you to our fundraising lunch with guest speakers  
12 noon on Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>  
At Bridges Restaurant, Hurstbridge**

**Hear the true stories of asylum seekers**

**\$25- bookings essential- by August 3rd  
Maree 94320190 / Margaret 94342182**

**All proceeds go to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre- to  
help provide basic food supplies to families without other means of support**



**Entrée, main course, tea and coffee  
Raffle and door prizes**

**Bridges Restaurant**

Melways 263 C7

1075 Heidelberg – Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge

From Hurstbridge Station, walk 1km through the village to Bridges.

Telephone: (03) 9718 0099

Website: <http://bridgesrestaurant.com.au>

(see a video tour of Bridges)

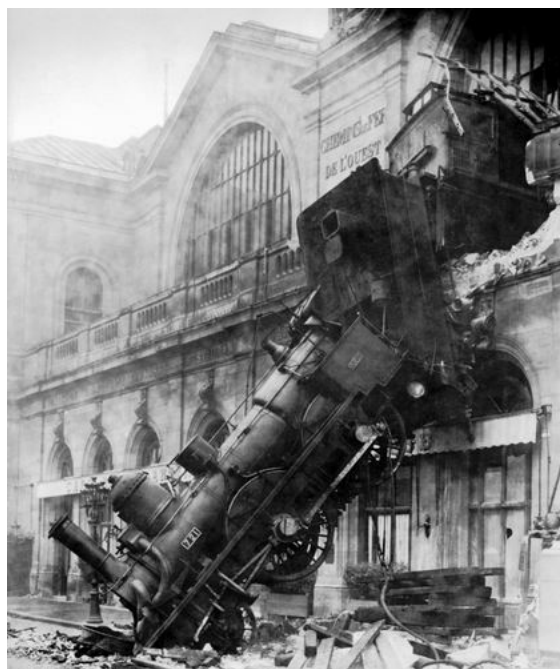
## Climate Change – the Great Train Wreck

As you are aware, I am very concerned about Climate Change. In fact I am organising a walk to Canberra to protest about inaction on the issue. We are going to take a sea turtle as a mascot with the slogan “Climate Change – A Turtle Disaster”. For more information, you can read my article in last month’s newsletter, or visit my blog <http://canberraturtlewalk.blogspot.com.au/> . You can even take the opportunity to be involved in the walk.

Back to Climate Change. The best analogy I have heard is that of a big train ride. The world has been travelling on this enormous train for 100 years and having a great time. We are now racing along at 100 kmh. Unfortunately it is rather foggy so we can’t see very far ahead, but the track has been fine for 100 years and we are confident it will go on forever.

Some people who should know are suggesting that may be there is a big cliff ahead of us. In fact 95% of those who should know say there is a big cliff. They are not sure how far ahead it is, or what will happen when we go over the cliff. Some think there will be a few scratches and bruising. Some say 90% of the people on the train will die.

What do we do. Many on the train think the cliff is a conspiracy to take over the train and the cliff doesn’t exist. They think we should just go faster.



I tend to side with those wanting to put the brakes on. If we go half the speed, we will have twice the time before reaching the cliff. More importantly, if we are going half the speed and suddenly see the cliff looming out of the mist, we have a much better chance of stopping. What is the downside? If we go a little slower, maybe it will be a bit more comfortable.

The biggest concern is tipping points. It is possible that the train line will start sloping downhill and we start accelerating. It may get so steep that even if we put the brakes on full, we will just keep going faster and faster until we go over the cliff. One tipping point is the ice sheet on the Arctic Ocean. As the ice melts, more water is exposed. The ice reflects the sun's heat. Water absorbs it. So as the ice starts to melt the water gets warmer and melts more ice. Over a very short time, all of the ice melts. This is already happening. A similar potential problem exists with the arctic tundra. This frozen wasteland has trapped vegetation in it over the years. As the tundra starts to melt, the vegetation rots and gives off methane which accentuates the green house effect

of CO2 and do melts more tundra. In fact, if all the tundra melts, the emissions will be greater than all the fossil fuels we have already burnt.

So, let's start applying the brakes.

Alan Cuthbertson

Convener Montmorency Community Group

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

*Something from Fanciscus Henri ...*



# Transition Thrive - sustaining your Transition Initiative

## A two-day interactive workshop

Saturday 26 July & Sunday 27 July 2014  
9.15am for a 9.30 start to 5.30pm  
Banyule Community Health  
21 Alamein Road, Heidelberg West

This workshop builds on Training for Transition and focuses on how you and your group can sustain, or regain momentum, to deepen your Transition Town journey. It will provide a framework to explore and share ways to move your group to the next level.

If you would like to attend the workshop but have not completed Training for Transition, you may want to attend a preparatory workshop to be held prior to the weekend. This ½ day session will provide background to the initial training and an overview of the Transition model.

Facilitated by Jacinta Walsh and Clare Power, Transition trainers.

Cost: \$50 per person, \$30 concession

Lunch will be provided on Day 1, and Day 2 will feature a Pot Luck lunch (participants bring lunch to share).

Bookings are essential – to avoid disappointment, book early as places are limited. Please note: payment is required to confirm your booking.

To register - contact Transition Banyule at [info@transitionbanyule.org.au](mailto:info@transitionbanyule.org.au) and we'll send you the link to register or [click here](#) or try this link  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dGwaY28xSGk1TTg0Sm83M2xSVdY1Y1E6MA>

For more information call Margot on 9432 4200

## A practical, informative and experiential workshop

Learn how to deepen the transition processes and build sustainable Transition groups that contribute to resilient communities



## PRODUCE GARDENING EXPERTS

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\* known universe may possibly be an exaggeration... but we do have LOTS & LOTS!

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## **Friends of Monty Bushlands 2014**

FOMB has resumed our working bees for 2014. If you have not participated before,  
please note:

All working bees will start at 10am. (If you would like to start earlier than 10,  
contact Julia and she will join you.)

Working bees will be on the first Saturday of the month, except in the months of June,  
September and November.

Plants, tools and refreshments supplied. Bring your own small weeding tools, gardening  
gloves etc if you wish.

To receive our full programme of activities for 2014,  
contact Pam on 9439 1853 or [prowley@chariot.com.au](mailto:prowley@chariot.com.au)

For general enquiries, contact Pam or the Bush Crew office: Paul Davis 9490 4415  
We also have a Facebook page where you can see our photos and news items of interest-  
[www.facebook.com/friendsofmontmorencybushlands](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofmontmorencybushlands)



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

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



## **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