

Featuring

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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:

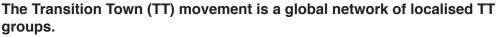
montymoves@gmail; or phone Alan on 9439 8205 or Katherine on 0439 652 680

MCG is a Transition Town

We are connecting local people with ideas, vison and action to move from oil dependancy 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



MCG aims to inspire and enhance connectedness and sustainable living within community.



Who are the people behind the sugar glider project?

We are a group of 10 volunteers who want to improve the biodiversity of our suburb.

Jane is our chairperson, inspiring leader and meticulous researcher and submission writer.

Wendy is our minute-taker and has liaised with the primary school and produced educational materials for the sugar glider project.



Jocelyn and Peter are our gracious hosts, who contribute their wide knowledge of local flora and fauna and care for Looker Road trees.

Alan C has overseen the glider boxes by preparing materials, monitoring construction and painting, installation and maintenance.

Alan L and David D are our expert nesting box installers.

Pam was a judge for the native garden competition, has proofread documents and compiled information on local birds and plants.

Julia brings her wide knowledge of indigenous flora and fauna. She encourages children to engage with their natural environment and has supervised planting activities at the primary school.

lan is our fauna expert/ consultant who has devised our system for recording sugar glider observations.

How did our group start?

We had all noticed a decline in tree cover and consequent loss of many wildlife species: birds, frogs, reptiles, gilders etc., that used to live here in the early years. So we decided to meet regularly to discuss our ideas and make plans of action.

At first, we discussed how to bring back the many small birds that have disappeared from our gardens – the spinebills, honeyeaters, white-eyes and finches. Soon we developed the idea of a "corridor" of wildlife habitat across Monty to connect existing wildlife corridors that run along adjacent waterways – the Diamond Creek and Plenty River – and through the nearby Yarra Valley. If wildlife living in those areas had an access route of suitable habitat into Monty, then they would come – we hoped. The key was to provide the necessary habitat links, with the appropriate food, water supply and shelter. This has become our "vision".

One of our first tasks was to conduct a survey of existing tree cover across our suburb, to study and map the distribution of native species. Since then we have undertaken several projects involving the local community and supported by grants obtained from Banyule City Council – Monty Bush Garden Competition, "Trees for Looker Road" and "Bring back the sugar gliders".

We are pleased with progress so far and wish to thank all the local residents, schools, businesses, Council officers etc who have worked with us on these projects.

Pam Rowley

Plastic Bags



I saw a film recently called "Bag It: Is your life too plastic". It talks about the environmental impact of single use plastic bags. While there are many problems with them, the main concern is the amount of plastic that ends up in th ocean. When researchers examine the oceans far from land they still find quite a large amount of plastic. When they examine the stomachs of dead birds they find it up to half full of plastic. Birds have difficulty differentiating between plastic and food. Because they cannot digest it, it builds up in their stomachs.

Since 2004, we have created more plastic than was ever created previously. While most ends up in landfill, some escapes and slowly makes its way to the oceans. The plastic already on the way to the oceans means the amount in the sea will double over the next decade and keep increasing beyond then.

There are many places banning single use plastic bags. There is a movement to encourage people to go plastic free for the month of July. It may be too late to do so for a month, but even doing it for a week or a few days will highlight to you how much plastic we use.

For more information, visit www.plasticfreejuly.org

Alan Cuthbertson

Solar Panels - Using your own power

Last month I talked about using batteries to store the power you generate rather than selling it back to the grid for 6 cents. It turns out there are other potential ways to "load shift". That is, use your own power costing you 6.2 cents rather than the grid power at some other time for 35 cents.

The first is a heat pump for hot water. A reverse cycle air conditioner is a heat pump. It has two coils, one in the house and one outside. It uses power to pump heat from the cold coil to the hot coil. In summer the inside coil is the cold coil, in winter it swaps and becomes the hot coil.

The beauty is that it uses 800 watts of power to pump 3,000 watts of heat, a 400% efficiency!

You can buy a heat pump for your hot water and heat it using your excess power from your panels. To work though you need a controller that detects when you are putting power into the grid and to tell your hot water service to work harder. Effectively say "always heat the water to 50 degrees, but if I am exporting power to the grid, heat it to 80 degrees".

Similarly the controller could talk to your electric car charger. "Always charge my car to 30%, but when exporting to the grid, charge it to 100%".

In summer it could talk to your air conditioner. "Always cool my house to 26 degrees, but when exporting to the grid, cool it to 23 degrees".

In winter it could talk to your reverse cycle air conditioner. "Always heat my house to 18 degrees, but when exporting to the grid, heat it to 20 degrees".

And I could put a 1,000 litre tank of water in the house, hook it up to my hot water service to say "in winter, when my hot water is at 75 degrees, transfer heat into my 1,000 litre tank". You can then use this water to heat the house starting at 6:00 the next day.

If you can build this control unit you can make a fortune. It is easy to detect when you are exporting to the grid. It needs to be able to activate a number of relays to turn on the hot water heater, the car charger and the air conditioner. The tricky part is the "over-ride condition". It needs to know when the hot water is below 50 degrees and turn it on anyway. Similarly it needs to know when the car is below 1/3rd full or the room temperature is above 26 degrees. All quite feasible if only these devices had a standard way of providing this information! Or if the heater etc., had a relay that you activate to say "work harder".

From an environmental perspective, such "load shifting" has no value. Using the power yourself rather than selling it cheaply to someone else doesn't save power. However it will have an environmental value as solar panels are used more. Eventually we reach the point, where at 2:00 pm solar generation exceeds consumption and we have to "throw away" power. Then load shifting is environmentally valuable. Also, if load shifting is easy, it encourages more solar panels.

Alan Cuthbertson

EVENTS

Open Mic Night

Wednesday 15 July 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.

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group

Monday 20 July, 1.30pm Location: Uniting Church, cnr Mountainview Rd and Rattray Rd or Monty Primary School Convenor: Maree Krohn 9432 0190, maree.krohn@ bigpond.com

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 1 August 10am – 12 noon Belmont Reserve Map 21, F6 Planting and BBQ: through main bollard area. Meet at top of reserve

ENQUIRIES:

Rattray, Belmont and Wooded Way Reserves Contact: Pam on 94391853 or Julia on 94392378 Pecks Dam Contact George on 94397375

Food Swap

Sunday 2 August 10.30–11.30am Monty Primary School

MONTY BUSH DANCE

Saturday 8 August Petrie Park Hall **Tickets on sale now!**

Banyule City Council Meetings

Items of interest for the Montmorency Community

From the meeting of 9 June 2015.

During the planning phase for the upgrading of a section of the Plenty River Trail it was identified that part of Council-owned land, known as the Simms Road Reserve, had been fenced within the boundary of, and occupied by the Montmorency Secondary College which has been using and maintaining the land for many years. After realignment of the fencing to allow Plenty River Trail works to proceed 414m2, of the Reserve would remain in the School grounds. Affixing the Common Seal of the Banyule City Council to a Licence to formalise this arrangement was deferred to a further meeting of Council. (Moved: Cr Jenny Mulholland; Seconded: Cr Craig Langdon and CARRIED)

From the meeting of 22 June 2015.

It has further been identified that public access to the Plenty River Trail, at the end of Simms Road, could be enhanced by leasing part of the School land. It was resolved that Council (1) Authorise officers to continue negotiations with the Department of Education and the Principal of the Montmorency Secondary College for agreement to enter into a Licence allowing access to School land; and (2) Ratify the Licence between Council and the Minister in relation to Council owned land enclosed within the fence line of the School by resolving to affix its common seal to the Licence. (Moved: Cr Tom Melican; Seconded: Cr Steven Briffa and CARRIED)

This report with thanks to Ian Endersby

Save Our ABC

Dear ABC Friend,

As you know, the ABC is under attack as never before.

Funding has been cut by \$500 million (which includes the loss of the Australia Network contract). The cuts will increasingly affect the ABC's ability to compete over the next 4 years unless we can stop them.

Nationally, 400 staff have been retrenched. Including experienced presenters, journalists, researchers and technical staff. Overseas bureaux have been closed. We are being deprived of an Australian perspective on world affairs and events.

Programs are being affected and services removed, despite promises to the contrary. Apart from denying Australians exposure to the work of our writers, actors, composers, musicians, directors and other artists, the opportunity for these talented people to produce creative work is being strangled.

The ABC itself is being downsized and centralised. The commitment in its charter is to provide quality, independent and inclusive programming for all Australians, including regional and rural areas, is basic and must be defended.

This is a National Call to Action for more Friends and a Fighting Fund

You can help NOW – and it is urgent!!

By donating personally to a Fighting Fund being established to combat the 'forces of evil' (as depicted above by Ron Tandberg) -ie. all those trying to weaken or bring down the ABC.

By forwarding this message to at least 5 others via email or 'snail' mail and asking them to become ABC Friends and to donate. OR, they can just be "ABC Supporters" by assisting us financially – and by providing contact details.

You can upload the website link www.abcfriends.org.au to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to spread the call for help, and show your support with #saveourabc

The Fighting Fund is supported by all State-based ABC Friends groups. It will be used to mount a highly visible campaign defending the ABC's independence and restoring its funding so it can compete and continue to provide quality programs for all Australians. For us to be effective, we need resources — so please give what you can NOW!

You can donate here: http://www.abcfriends.org.au/donate-to-the-national-campaign.html

Graeme Connelly, President ABC Friends Victorian Branch



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

Planting days in Monty Reserves

2015 is a busy year for planting in Monty's nature reserves. Thousands of small seedlings have been ordered for this planting season. At their June working bee, Friends of Monty Bushlands put in 600 plants around Pecks Dam and more will be planted there in September. Wattles and bursaria bushes will create patches of greenery, interspersed with a carpet of indigenous grasses.

A variety of small shrubs, grasses, native daisies and other flowers are being planted progressively across the top of the Rattray Reserve. Unfortunately the July planting day was spoilt by the bitterly cold, drizzly weather, but 8 intrepid volunteers turned up and 300 plants were put in. To complete this planting, we are hoping to continue there on a week day in the near future. If you would like to help and can spare some time during the week, please contact me and you will be informed of the date when we know it.

Pam 94391853

Annual fundraising lunch with guest speaker

Every year, the MASSG holds a catered lunch to raise funds for the ASRC, which supports asylum seekers with their basic living needs. This popular fundraiser is to be held this year at the Bridges Restaurant in Hurstbridge on Friday the 21st August. We have invited Sister Brigid, well known for her knowledge of the asylum seeker situation, to speak on the topic: *Can we influence the situation of asylum seekers?*

As this event is regularly booked out, we suggest you book soon. To allow for catering, tickets must be purchased in advance, by August 7th if possible. No tickets will be available at the door.

www.transitionmonty.org

MASSG

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group



Invites you to our annual

fundraising lunch

with guest speaker, Sister Brigid- famous for her work with asylum seekers

12 noon on Friday August 21st 2015 at BRIDGES RESTAURANT, HUSTBRIDGE

Better to light a candle

Can we influence the situation for asylum seekers?

Main course, dessert, tea and coffee
Door prizes and raffle
\$27- bookings essential - by Friday August 7^{th.}
Tickets available from
Maree 94320190 / maree.krohn@bigpond.com
Margaret 94342182 / tmpinniger@exemail.com.au

All proceeds go to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre to help provide basic food supplies to individuals and families on very low or no income.

Bridges Restaurant

Melways 263 C7 1075 Heidelberg- Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge one km past Hurstbridge Station Telephone: (03) 97180099

Website: http://bridgesrestaurant.com.au (see video tour of Bridges)



NEXT MCG STEERING GROUP MEETING

all members welcome

Wednesday 5 August at Busybird Publishing Studio Gallery 2/118 Para Road Montmorency 7.00pm–8.30pm (behind Walkers Wheels)

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.busybird.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



Did you always want to double glaze but found it too expensive?

By doing it yourself you can convert a normal sized house for around \$5,000.

We will visit your home and explain how it all works and give you a detailed quote.

Normally we charge \$100 for the service, but mention this add and we will do it for free

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Email: sales@diydoubleglaze.com.au Web site: www.diydoubleglaze.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.



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

c/- 251 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty, 3093

Please ask permission to reproduce material. Montmorency Community Group endevours 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