



MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

www.transitionmonty.org

June 2015

Featuring

- Volunteer Awards Night
- Solar panels and the Tesla Power Wall
- Banyule City Council Meetings
- Farmers Market
- 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: 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

Volunteer Awards Night

Several weeks ago, Jane and I went as representatives of the Montmorency Community Group to the annual Banyule Volunteers Award night. Kathryn also went representing the Diamond Creek Living and Learning Centre. It was great to see the Heidelberg town Hall packed with people who work so hard as volunteers in the community. The council puts in a significant effort to help recognize the volunteers and it is greatly appreciated.

The night is a proper sit down meal with entertainment and dancing but the highlight of the evening is the awards. Brian Nankervis was the MC for the night and treated us to some very old one liners "If Bert Newton was a butcher, how would he introduce his wife? – Meet Patty". Several Transition groups and their members were nominated for awards, but this year none were successful.

The winner of the Individual Volunteer was Maria Welsh from Montmorency. Maria is involved with many volunteer groups and has been a volunteer for Banksia Palliative Care Service for over 5 years. We congratulate Maria for the work she does in the local community.

For info, contact:

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

Alan Cuthbertson

Solar panels and the Teslar Power Wall

One of the biggest disincentives to installing solar panels is the low feed in tariff. I am lucky. I installed panels early and get paid 66 cents feed in tariff. But then my panels cost 3 times what they cost now. My aim is to minimise power usage during the day to maximize the amount of power I feed into the grid.

However if you buy panels now, you get paid only 6.2 cents per kwh. If you use the power yourself you save 35 cents/kwh. There has been a lot of talk about the Teslar power wall. It is a 10 kwh battery soon to be released in the US for \$3,500. Sounds good. You can charge your battery from your solar panels during the day and use the power later.

You lose the 6.2 cents but save the 35 cents later, giving a 29 cent saving for each kwh. If you can save 10 kwh each day and use it later, you save \$2.90, paying off the battery in around 3 years.

Sounds like a good deal, but there are a few catches. Firstly, you can only use around 80% of the battery. If you fully charge the battery or flatten it totally on a regular basis you will halve the battery life.

Secondly, if it is a very overcast day, you may not get the 10 kwh to charge the battery.

Thirdly, the \$3,500 cost is in US dollars and does not include installation. It is not clear, but you are likely to need additional hardware to manage the charging and discharging of the battery.

All of this means that the time to repay it gets close to 10 years, the expected life of the battery.

Of course the Teslar battery shows great promise. It lowers the bar on battery cost and in 10 years time will be very affordable.

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. More about that next month!

Alan Cuthbertson



Banyule City Council Meetings

Items of interest for the Montmorency Community

From the meeting of 27 April 2015.

Council received a petition bearing fifty-five (55) signatures from residents of Banyule and surrounding municipalities requesting that Council build a Skate Park in Petrie Park and include the Skate Park in the Petrie Park Master Plan. It was resolved that the petition be considered as a submission to the Petrie Park/Ratray Reserve Master Plan. (Moved: Cr Steven Briffa; Seconded: Cr Mark Di Pasquale and CARRIED)

From the meeting of 25 May 2015.

Following approval on 23 December 2014 from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for an additional 15 Electronic Gaming Machines for the Montmorency-Eltham RSL, a Planning Permit application has been lodged. As Council owns the land upon which the premises are located, any variation to the number of Electronic Gaming Machines permitted on the premises also requires a variation to the Council lease to the RSL.

The planning permit application is to allow the placement of the additional Gaming Machines, associated building and works to create space for these additional machines, as well as new office and administration areas and other internal reconfiguration and renovation works. The increase in floor area also necessitates that this application is also for the provision of car parking to the satisfaction of Council.

It was resolved (A) that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit be issued subject to various conditions including: an amended building plan and a satisfactory detailed landscaping plan must be submitted and approved; engineering plans showing the method for disposal of stormwater from all roofed areas and sealed areas; plans are to indicate sustainable design features (i.e. energy and water efficiency ratings for heating/

cooling systems and plumbing fittings and fixtures, etc), and (B) that Council agrees 'in principle' to an amendment to the lease for the Council owned land occupied by the Montmorency-Eltham RSL to allow for an increase in Electronic Gaming Machines to fifty (50) subject to securing appropriate lease clauses in relation to the community benefit initiatives to be provided by the RSL. (Moved: Cr Steven Briffa; Seconded: Cr Mark Di Pasquale and CARRIED)

With thanks to Ian Endersby

Farmers Market

Please note that the Farmers Market is no longer running but there are plans for it to run in the future. Watch this space!

NEXT MCG STEERING GROUP MEETING

all members welcome

Wednesday 1 July at
Busybird Publishing
Studio Gallery
2/118 Para Road
Montmorency
7.00pm–8.30pm
(behind Walkers Wheels)

EVENTS

Glider Box Distribution

Saturday 27 June
The Castle
Monty PS

Food Swap

Sunday 5 July
10.30–11.30am
Monty Primary School

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 4 July
10am – 12 noon
Ratray Reserve
Map 21, E6
Planting and BBQ: through
top section and extending
down the hill.

ENQUIRIES:

Ratray, Belmont and Wooded Way Reserves

Contact: Pam on 94391853
or Julia on 94392378

Pecks Dam

Contact George on
94397375

Open Mic Night

Wednesday 14 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
Ratray Rd
or Monty Primary School
Convenor: Maree Krohn
9432 0190, maree.krohn@
bigpond.com

SAVE THE DATE!!!! MONTY BUSH DANCE

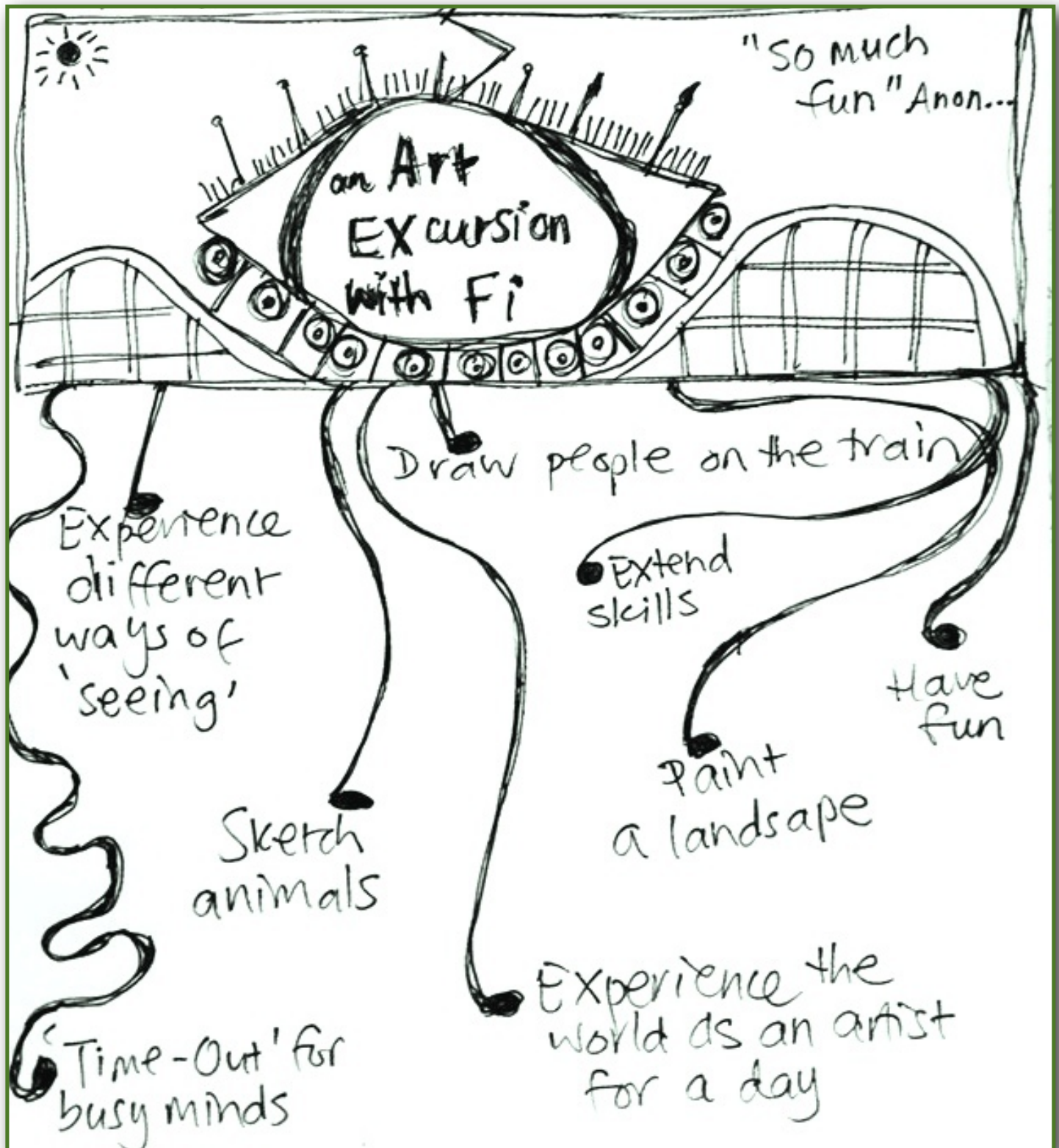
Saturday 8 August

AN ART ADVENTURE

With Fiona Haasz

10AM - 3PM, Friday 19 June 2015

\$80



Bookings:

Call 0412 099 397

or Email fiona@riverofplenty.com.au

www.riverofplenty.com.au



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



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

www.transitionmonty.org



Your Sugar Glider boxes are ready to be collected!

Where: Monty Primary School, The Castle

When: Saturday 27th June, 11.00- 12.00

Attractions include:

Home-baked morning tea

Learning how to locate and install your box

Preparing your gliders' home

Taking home your box and plants

(and more!)

RSVP/ info Jane 0412 468 432

or Montysugargliders@gmail.com





Sustainable
Living Hub

ECOVILLAGE LIVING

How can Australian
Ecovillages and
Intentional
Communities
inspire the world?

Join us for a
presentation by
International thought
leader Andrew Olivier

For one evening only, Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Ambassador Andrew Olivier gives an overview of exciting approaches and developments in the international scene of Ecovillages and Intentional Communities, and then focuses on what is happening in Australia.

What is our present state of play? What is sociocracy? How can members be actively involved in the way villages develop?

Andrew will finish his talk with an overview of Narara Ecovillage in New South Wales and will introduce upcoming local events.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity to discuss these stimulating topics – bring your questions!

Wednesday 17th June 2014 6.30-8.30pm

At Diamond Valley Learning Centre
1 Diamond Creek Rd,
Greensborough

Gold coin donation

Light refreshments provided

BOOKING ESSENTIAL Contact us on (03) 9435
9060 or email courses@dvlc.org.au

Life Writing

9–11 October 2015

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

We all have a story to tell. For some, that story demands to be told. How do you write your story without boring the reader? This weekend will help you move beyond self-doubt and procrastination to fully express your writer's voice.

- ✧ 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
- ✧ Gain 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**.

Only \$895 (incl GST) Early Bird Price

All accommodation and meals included.

Contact Blaise for more details:

T: 03 9434 6365 or 0416 157 281

E: blaise@thebookchick.com.au

website has full details

www.busybird.com.au



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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