



MONTMORENCY COMMUNITY GROUP

www.transitionmonty.org

September 2015

Featuring

- Your Community
- Banyule Council
- Asylum Seekers
- MASSG Writers Group
- September in Your Garden
- Preserving Your Harvest
- Monty Bowls Open Day
- FREE cat desexing
- Peck's Dam
- Renewable Power – Petition
- Gas vs Electricity Heating
- Gasfield Free – Rally
- 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.



Your 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

For info, contact:

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

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Only Just – How it Began

In 2008 a small group of people from the Diamond Valley TEAR social justice group got together to work on the "Fair Trade Nillumbik Project". The aim of our project was to raise awareness of Fair Trade in Nillumbik and ask the Nillumbik Council to become a Fair Trade Council.

We were set to present our project, and support for the submission from the community, in early 2009. However, the Black Saturday bushfires swept through our region and we decided it was best to let our council deal with the devastation left in its path.



The Fair Trade Nillumbik Project was the catalyst for what was to become Only Just. During the project I spoke to lots of churches, schools and community groups. It became clear to me that Fair Trade resonated with our community but they didn't have a local option for buying handicrafts and gifts. So, with my partner and two friends we decided to take a risk and start up a Fair Trade shop. This was how it all began.



From the beginning we wanted Only Just to be a community driven project. So, even though we provided the funds to start it up, we wanted it run by local volunteers who could invest as much or as little as wanted into Only Just.

Only Just has now been open for 5 years. It is a registered not-for-profit organisation. In that time we have donated over \$55,000 back into aid and development projects through TEAR Australia and we have funded several thousand dollars worth of micro credit loans through KIVA.

Only Just buys from over 25 Developing countries. They provide us with all the beautiful hand made gifts in our store. They do amazing work and support some of the most disenfranchised communities in the world: leprosy victims, women who have been trafficked, survivors of exploded landmines and polio and more. Our partners pay their employees a fair wage but they provide so much more: medical assistance, counselling, education subsidies, micro credit loans, investment in clean water initiatives, the list goes on. A purchase of a Fair Trade product certainly goes a long way to breaking the grinding cycle of poverty.

Our partners have to compete with big multi nationals and cheap labour on a global scale. We want to help them get more Fair Trade work so Only Just is taking the plunge and opening a second shop in Eltham Shopping Centre next to Frosts Pharmacy. If what we do resonates with you then please consider volunteering with us. All you need is a heart for change and social justice is. If you can't volunteer with us, please spread the word around. We are aiming to open in mid October.

Volunteers are needed! If Fair Trade resonates with you and you enjoy working with people contact

Donna Parker on 0413 314 626 or email donna.prkr1@gmail.com

Face book: [onlyjustfti](https://www.facebook.com/onlyjustfti). www.onlyjust.com.au



Banyule City Council Meetings

Items of interest for the Montmorency Community

From the meeting of 7 September 2015.

PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY SOURCES

Council has historically utilised the separate Procurement Australia collaborative contracts for provision of: electricity for large and small sites, natural gas for large and small sites and electricity for public lighting. Each of these existing Procurement Australia contracts is due to expire between now and 31 July 2016. Procurement Australia proposes to aggregate all these services into the one tender. It was resolved that Council agrees to participate in the Procurement Australia energy services tender and, subject to acceptable tenders being received, execute the Energy Services Agreements. (Moved: Cr Tom Melican; Seconded: Cr Steven Briffa and CARRIED).

ILLEGAL TREE REMOVAL

It was resolved that Council:

1. Write to the Minister for Planning expressing concern that the penalties under the Planning Environment Act 1987 are not an adequate deterrent when illegal tree removal is undertaken to obtain a development advantage.
2. Continue to apply the Planning and Building Enforcement Framework in situations where illegal tree removal is undertaken.
3. Consider further proactive enforcement campaigns to discourage tree removal including reinforcement of the planning requirements and penalties in Councillor Ward News, social media and editorial opportunities."

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

– item provided thanks to Ian Endersby

News from Montmorency Asylum Seekers' Support Group

On Friday 21st August we held our annual fund raising lunch at Bridges Restaurant in Hurstbridge. All the money raised will go to the Asylum Seekers' Resource Centre: (ASRC) which provides support to people on very low or no income.

Our speaker was Sister Brigid Arthur, from the Brigidine Sisters' asylum seekers project.

She was forthright, articulate and knowledgeable. She said that we should all 'bombard the politicians' with demands that the cruelty to asylum seekers stop. 'Pollies talk to one another', she said. 'They will tell others what they have heard if we keep up the pressure.' It was a pleasant afternoon and we had a generous number of raffle prizes and door prizes, so quite a few people left with big smiles on their faces! 136 people attended. The food was good and the staff at Bridges were wonderful. If you fancy going somewhere to eat in a lovely mud brick building in a bush environment, we can heartily recommend Bridges.

We were delighted with the money we made, and we know that it will be put to very good use at the ASRC.

Maree Krohn

MASSG Writers Group

(Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group)

Many of us have felt desperation and despair over the cruel and degrading treatment meted out to asylum seekers by this country which prides itself on allowing everyone "a fair go". We feel helpless in the face of powerful forces working against this notion. At the same time, we know that the best way to influence the situation is through community education and communicating our views to those who represent us.

In 2014, MASSG set up its own "writing group" to research the facts of asylum seeker matters, compile information for the community and to compose letters to our MP's and the media. We understood that many of us feel that the task of letter-writing on important issues to the authorities is too daunting, too time-consuming or too ineffective to bother. Our solution was to share the workload. We have found that combining our efforts makes the task so much easier and more pleasant, especially over delicious snacks and coffee to keep our brains functioning.

We are a small, but very efficient group, who meet regularly. We have produced 5 information brochures and distributed them to our contacts and local community. We have composed numerous letters to the Federal Government and Opposition on many issues in response to the dreadful situation currently facing those living in immigration detention and in the community without hope for a secure, free and peaceful future. We have not held back in expressing our outrage and disgust at policies and practices that are destroying the lives of traumatised people who have fled violence and persecution and come to Australia seeking a safe haven.

We have been inspired by Sister Brigid who after many years of experience working for better treatment of asylum seekers says that the best way to achieve change is to bombard our politicians with our views.

MASSG always welcomes new members. For enquiries about our brochures, attend our meetings or donate to the ASRC, contact Maree Krohn on 9432 0190

MASSG is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Montyassg>

Pam Rowley

EVENTS

Open Mic Night

Wednesday 15 September
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.

DECLARE VICTORIA GASFIELD FREE!

City Rally Sunday 20
September

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

Friends of Monty Bushlands

Saturday 3 October
10am – 12 noon
Belmont Reserve
Map 21, F6
Planting: any remaining
plants and handweeding
through 2015 planted area
ENQUIRIES:

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

Pecks Dam
Contact George on
94397375

Food Swap

Sunday 4 October
10.30–11.30am
Monty Primary School

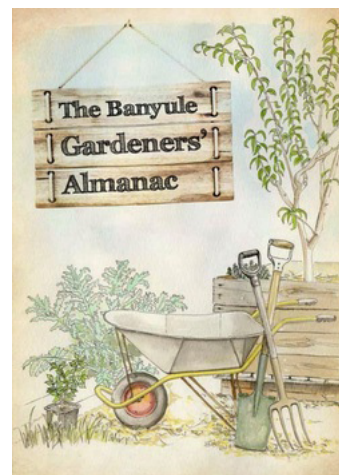
September in Your Garden

Spring is springing and it's time to get your garden ready for planting summer crops. Not sure where to begin, or what you should be planting right now? The Banyule Gardener's Almanac is a great reference you can use to find out what to plant when, the key garden tasks you need to be attending too, plus monthly tips on what to do to make your garden thrive.

In the September pages it recommends planting asparagus crowns, globe artichokes, potatoes, snow peas, broad beans and rhubarb directly into your garden through September. You can also start lots of summer vegetables in seed trays, kept in a warm place to plant out once the soil has warmed up and the chance of frost has passed. Things like: green beans, tomatoes, cucumber, eggplant, zucchini and pumpkin.

Start preparing garden beds for later planting – control weeds, add lime to your beds if your soil pH requires (the Almanac explains this), add manures and compost and mulch.

The Almanac costs \$5 and is available at Bulleen Art & Garden, Edes & Bibi in Montmorency and The Little Organic Shop in Hurstbridge, and of course your local food swaps. For enquiries, call Julie on 0438 115 853.



How the Monty Community Group Preserving your Seasonal Harvest



One of the benefits of being a financial member of the Montmorency Community Group is being able to borrow equipment to help you preserve fruit and vegetables when they're in season and plentiful. At this time of the year there's not a lot of abundance, but oranges can be dehydrated or there are still apples and pears that can also be dried or bottled.

MCG has a Fowlers Vacola dehydrator, a Fowlers Vacola bottling kit (you need to have your own bottles and fittings) and a passata machine and large pot for summer tomato sauce making. Financial members can borrow this equipment at any time for a period of up to 7 days. Each piece of equipment needs a deposit of \$20, which is refunded on safe return of the equipment.

So, start thinking ahead and planning for your summer preserving. To book equipment or for any queries about how it works, call Julie on 0438 115 853 or email julief.davidd@gmail.com



www.transitionmonty.org

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



Montmorency Bowling Club

Is holding their annual Open Days on Sundays 11th and 18th of October.

10 am to 4pm with a free sausage sizzle at noon.

This is for anyone who would like to Try Bowls from 12 years of age to whenever. We have a 91 year old man still playing pennant.

They can wear their thongs or flat soled shoes.

They will make a lot of new friends. All welcome.

<http://www.montmorency.bowls.com.au>

Free cat desexing and microchipping in Banyule

Banyule council is offering Banyule residents free cat desexing and microchipping from Monday 21 September to Monday 5 October 2015.

This is a saving of between \$100–\$250 on your cats care. Just ring Banyule Council on 94904222 for information on when and where works best for you.

This service is thought to be an Australian first. The Montmorency community group applauds council for this initiative

Did you know that:

If left undesexed one cat and her offspring can produce up to 42,000 cats in seven years.

Of the 28 species of Australian mammals gone extinct in Australia many have been linked to cats.

A rain garden at Pecks Dam

Pecks dam is an important wildlife sanctuary for Monty wildlife with frogs, ducks and sugar gliders calling it their home. A little pied cormorant also likes to hang out there as well.

Until recently things weren't looking good for the dam and its inhabitants. Over the years lots of houses have been built nearby. Storm water drains have also been installed to accommodate their runoff. Accordingly Pecks dam's water levels dropped from low to sometimes non-existent.

A resident council partnership has helped to bring water back to the dam through the installation of a rain garden which has now been built on one of the dam banks. The rain garden filters 'run' off from surrounding residential

blocks through, gravel stone, sand and small rocks into the dam. Plants which will assist with this process are still to come. There is a large raised square tank in the centre of the garden for overflow. Smaller upright PVC pipes are placed at a lower level to do the same thing. The rain garden will be cleaned out 2-4 times a year to avoid contaminants building up. Regular water testing for water quality will also occur.

The rain garden is already working with reports of water trickling in to the dam. The work around the dam also continues. On Saturday a Friends of a Pecks Dam planted grasses around the rain garden to prevent silt build up and redefine a new track around the dam. Jim Mead the Environmental Sustainability Education Officer gave up some of his weekend to inform the group about the rain garden and Senior Ranger Paul Davis organised the volunteer lunch.

If you'd like to help Pecks Dam to remain the special sanctuary that it is, become a friend of Pecks Dam. George Stolfo can be contacted for details. Email him on stolfo@iprimus.com.au. Working bees are twice a year from 10-12 on a Saturday morning.

1,000 signatures in sight.

Banyule Council are considering a move from investments in oil and gas extraction to renewable alternatives such as wind and solar.

The Monty Community Group have collected around 700 signatures so far in support of this initiative. We are aiming for 1,000.

Securing a safe climate means that 80% of fossil fuels must remain in the ground. Institutions all round the world are taking this information seriously and are divesting from companies involved in fossil fuel extraction and supply. As least eight councils in Australia have made the transition and our council is currently thinking about joining them. A decision is anticipated this October.

If you would like to show your support for this powerful strategy you can sign a petition at 'Only Just' a really lovely free trade gift store in Were St, Montmorency. The divestment petition is based on Council requirements ie it is for Banyule residents only, hard copy and must include your address.

If you'd like to do more than supply your signature feel free to collect signatures, ask us how. Many thanks to those who have done this already.

You can also look out for Jane, Alan Loretta and friends at a Banyule railway stations near you.

Questions are welcomed. Call Jane on 0412 468 432.



Gas versus Electric Heating

An article in *The Age* recently claimed that Victorian homes could save \$658 a year by using existing reverse cycle heat pumps rather than gas heaters. <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/heat-pump-tech-could-save-victorian-homes-up-to-658-a-year-on-gas-report-20150825-gj7gzt.html>

While there was some truth in the story, it was a little misleading. The cost for gas in Victoria is 1.8 cents/Mjoule. Converting this to Kwh, this is 6.5 cents/kwh. Assuming your gas heater is 80% efficient, that is 7.5 cents for each kwh of heat delivered into the house.

By comparison, 1 kwh of electricity costs 35 cents/kwh. Now heat pumps are efficient. They deliver approximately 4 kwh of heat for each kwh of power, so that costs around 9 cents for each kwh of heat delivered. More than for gas.

So, when does electricity win? At weekends when off peak power drops to 20 cents/kwh. Or when you are exporting power to the grid for 6 cents/kwh. But definitely not when you are exporting power for 66 cents/kwh.

Of course, reverse cycle units have the advantage that you heat a smaller area, normally one room rather than a whole house.

The real benefit is if you are building a new house. By using electric heat pumps for hot water and heating and cooling, and an electric stove and hotplates, you can save the \$250 annual connection fee. And installing 10 kw of panels on the roof will provide plenty of power to drive it all. Electricity is the way of the future, not gas!

Alan Cuthbertson

DECLARE VICTORIA GASFIELD FREE!

Rally Sunday, September 20.

It starts at the front of State Library 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne @ 12pm before marching to Parliament to deliver our declaration.

With the state inquiry into unconventional gas coming to a close we need to make our message clearer than ever before, that unconventional gas will never be welcome in Victoria.

Join the over 60 communities that have already declared themselves for a rally that has been over 3 years in the making!

From country to city, we come together to protect our land, our water and our health from unconventional gas. Help us send a clear message that fracking and gasfields will never be welcome in Victoria.

If you wish to join us to catch the train, please contact me.

Alan Cuthbertson

alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au

NEXT MCG STEERING GROUP MEETING

all members welcome

Wednesday 7 October 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.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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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
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**Normally we charge \$100 for the
service, but mention this add and
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Phone : (03) 9431 2190

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

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