

Kyneton Transition Hub e-Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011

- Kyneton Transition Hub—new group for Kyneton and environs
- Part of the global Transition Network
- Twin Challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change
- Community events
- Daffodil Festival Parade and Stall
- First Family Film Night—Sunday 18th September

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Introducing Kyneton Transition Hub

So why do we have such an odd name for what is mostly a sustainability group?

When a small group of residents from Kyneton, Carlsruhe and Malmsbury met to discuss starting a sustainability group in the area, we decided to explore the different options from the groups that have gone before us. Most environmental groups are concerned about climate change, environmental degradation and disappearing species. And we're concerned about those as well.

But many sustainability initiatives overlook the importance of peak oil and the end of cheap non-renewable energy. The Transition movement, which started in Totnes, a small town in England, has grown as a response to both climate change and peak oil, and at the same time addresses many other issues confronting us today.

Transition initiatives focus on re-localising and building resilience. This means strong communities working together to build a happier, healthier and more secure future.

The experience of the many Transition initiatives around the world is that you need to start with several months to a year of awareness raising in the community. This ensures that the later activities are not the preserve of a few "greenies" but involve a large part of the community.

The next stage is to form working groups that look at the different issues important to moving to a more sustainable future. These may include energy, food, waste, education, youth, water, restoration of country, local government, health and well-being, transport, building, local economy, recycling, transition tales, and heart and soul.

As each new working group is formed a visioning exercise is conducted with as wide a group from the community as possible.

And what is the result of this process in other communities? Totnes and many other communities around the world have now rebuilt the resilience their towns and suburbs once had. At the same time they have reduced their carbon footprint, saved energy, and built communities that support and value all of their members.

Isn't that what we want for our community and our children?



The Kyneton Transition Hub is working together to make our community stronger, happier and more resilient as we deal with the impacts of peak oil and climate change

Family Film Sessions



First film...
Cuba's experience

The Kyneton Transition Hub's first film session will be on Sunday 18th September from 5 - 7 pm.

We will be watching and discussing "The Power of Community", a film that shows what happened to Cuba when they were suddenly reduced to living without oil.

So was it all doom and gloom? Well there was a lot of that. But they also discovered a new way to live and be a community.

Come along to Sacred Heart College with a gold coin donation. Refreshments will be available after the film.

We will also have activities for kids, so bring them along.

Our film series will then continue each month, with exciting information on the state of the world and visions for the future that have inspired and encouraged those working toward global sustainability.

Join us on Sunday 15th October at the Kyneton Baptist Church, and then on Sunday 19th November for our future film sessions.

We look forward to meeting you there.



*I can't save the world
on my own. It'll take
at least three of us".*

*-Bill Mollison, co-origiator of
the permaculture concept*

Transition Initiatives in Australia

The first Transition initiative in Australia started very early—on the Sunshine Coast in 2007. It was an important initiative as it was the first outside of the UK and started only the year after the first Transition Town in Totnes, Devon, UK.

There are now over 70 Transition initiatives in Australia, and perhaps others that do not use the "transition" label but are based on the same principles and philosophy.

Transition initiatives may cover a single regional centre or suburb, or may be larger initiatives such as Transition Sydney, or they may

be hubs (like us) that cover a small number of closely connected towns.

Our closest Transition Town is Riddells Creek. They started about twelve months ahead of us and have held many events including film showings, guest speakers, Rod Quantock comedy nights and a food fair.

We are part of the Transition network, both globally and here in Australia, and there is an incredible spirit of sharing of knowledge, resources, experience and wisdom.

Climate Change



Upsala
Glacier,
Argentina

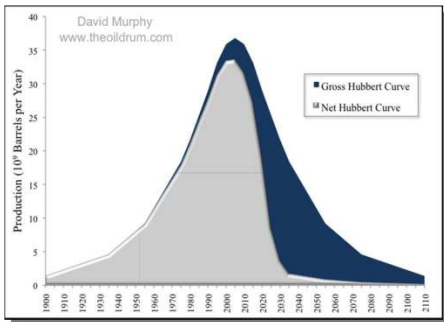
We are becoming accustomed to reports of extreme weather events, declining species, and record temperatures. A 2009 report by Oxfam suggested that 26 million people had already been displaced as a result of climate change (www.oxfam.org). As much as a scientific theory can be proven, climate change and mankind's

contribution has been proven. It has been confirmed by the International Panel for Cli-

mate Change (IPCC), a worldwide group of scientists who have reviewed all available scientific research.

The IPCC reports that there is no more debate, the science is clear. The only question is how fast can we act to achieve the necessary reductions in atmospheric CO2. On our best evidence we need to keep temperature increases to less than 2°C. Emissions already made have not yet had their full impact - so we are perilously close to reaching this even if we reduce emissions dramatically now.

Explaining Peak Oil



All the world's crude oil was created over 90 million years ago.

Over just 150 years we have become dependent on oil for many things, from petrol to plastic, polar

fleece to polystyrene, fertiliser to vaseline, detergents, preservatives and even medicine. What is not made of oil is transported by it.

Oil is a cheap source of energy. But not for much longer. When oil production peaks, production begins to decline. The quality of oil available declines (for example tar sand), and it takes increasingly more energy to extract the oil that is available. We have entered a phase where demand will begin

to outstrip supply over the long term. This will have an impact on everything in our lives... and there are no quick fixes.

While climate change and peak oil may herald some major shifts in the way we live, there is no reason why the creativity and ingenuity that got us to the peak would disappear as we have to work our way down the other side. In rising to these challenges it is quite possible that we will find ways to live simpler, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

Interesting fact:
One tank of petrol has the equivalent energy of four people working for a year at forty hours per week.

Our Values and Vision

The Kyneton Transition Hub grew from a small group of people at the Kyneton Conference in 2010 who wanted to work towards a "greener" Kyneton.

As a new group, we decided it was important to be clear about what we value most and what we are wanting to create. For this reason we developed a statement of our vision and values to form the basis of our decision-making. The key elements follow below.

We are working together to make our community stronger, happier and more resilient as we deal with the impacts of peak oil and climate change.

We the residents of Kyneton environs care about our community, our local environment and our world. Our strengths are our diverse skills, interests and experiences as well as our friendliness and sense of community. We sup-



port a sustainable future for our community, our children and our earth. We value the contribution of each individual to our community, whatever age, ability, family status, or origin.

What's Next?

Over the coming months we will be holding awareness-raising events in Kyneton and surrounds. These will mostly be in the form of film sessions, but may also include guest speakers and other events.

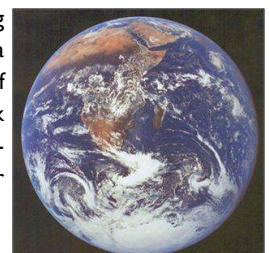
If you would like to help us during this awareness-raising phase, we would love to welcome you to our core group meetings which

are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month from 7.30 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School.

In 2012 we expect to launch the first of our special working groups. So if you have a particular interest in gardening, food, renewable energy, the arts, or any other aspect related to developing community strength, then we would

love to have you indicate your interest to us, so that we can include you in any group as it is formed.

Of course, we will not be starting from scratch, as we know we have a strong community already. So if your community group wants to talk to us about your role in the community we would appreciate your experience, wisdom and advice.





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KTH has chosen to have strong links with the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group. They have offered their administrative and other support, and we will be working closely together.

The Kyneton Transition Hub is proud to be supported by these great local businesses:

- **AJs Eatery**
- **Ashby's Larder**
- **Blade Electric Vehicles**
- **Chai Baby**
- **Diggers Club**
- **Ecomaster**
- **The Garden Tap Nursery**
- **Kennedy's Amcal Pharmacy**
- **Kyneton Café on High**
- **Kyneton Chemmart Pharmacy**
- **Kyneton Toyota**
- **No. 2 Sweetheart**
- **Pass-the-Parcel**
- **Pie'ce De R'esistance**
- **Purple Sage**
- **Ranges Charcoal Chicken**
- **Sweet Cravings Patisserie**

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2011

- Sun 18th—
Family film session—5-7 pm,
Sacred Heart
College, High
St, Kyneton

- Wed 21st—
Core group
meeting

October 2011

- Sun 16th—film
session, 5-7 pm.
Kyneton Baptist
Church, Ebdon
St, Kyneton

- Wed 19th—
Core group
meeting

November

- Wed 16th—
Core group
meeting
- Sun 19th—Film
session, 5-7 pm,
Venue tba

Please let us know what
you think of our
newsletter!

Resources and Links

Rob Hopkin's *Transition Towns Handbook* (available in the Goldfields Library)

Transition Globally

www.transitionnetwork.org/
www.transitionculture.org/ <http://www.futurescenarios.org/>
www.permacultureprinciples.com/
<http://www.youtube.com/user/TransitionTowns>

Transition in Australia

www.transitiontownsaustralia.blogspot.com/
www.transitionsunshinecoast.org/index.php

Local groups

www.transitiontownriddell.org.au/
www.relocalisehepburn.blogspot.com/
www.transitionma.org.au/
<http://www.holmgren.com.au/>



Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival



The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival is the first event for the Kyneton Transition Hub. Our enthusiastic team of approximately twenty people have put together an entry in the parade, as well as a stand you can't miss. It's a teepee and we have plenty of prizes and activities.

We look forward to seeing you there, or catching up with you at the next event.

We would also like to offer our thanks to the Daffodil and Arts Festival committee for their generous support.

