

A 'Councils and Communities in Transition' Conference

BUILDING

Community Resilience and Minimizing Risk

The major challenge of the twenty first century as localisation responds to globalism

**Wednesday November 23 and
Thursday November 24, 2011**

Venue: Flemington Racecourse
(Panorama Room in the main grandstand) off
Epsom Road.
Free parking or catch tram 57 from Flinders
Street station along Elizabeth Street.



The coming decades will see unparalleled challenges for local communities as the forces of globalism and growth approach or surpass natural limits. Communities will need to change the ways in which they live and work, and the role of local government will be critical in facilitating knowledge-sharing and behavioural adaptation.

This event recognises that we still have time to plan for a different future and, as we all know, the most effective way to 'clear the fog', is to do it collaboratively. If each Council and community group tries to do it alone, the result will be patchy.

This Transition Summit has an outstanding program including:

- Presentation by Rob Hopkins (Transition founder) on the new 'Transition Companion' as well as online Q&A
- Film screening: 'Economics of Happiness' and discussion with Helena Norberg-Hodge
- World Cafe facilitated discussion - Economic relocalisation and Local Government's role
- Sonya Wallace (Sunshine Coast): Food Connect
- David Holmgren - Energy Descent Action Planning
- Numerous case studies
- World Cafe facilitated discussion - local government's role in local food production?
- Planning a better way forward

But there's MORE: all attendees will receive a copy of the new 'Transition Companion' by Rob Hopkins as well as the 'Economics of Happiness' film.

Who should attend? Councillors, Council officers, Community Organisations, Citizens



This event is convened by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)

PROGRAM



Wednesday November 23

9am	Registration
9.30am	Welcome/background
9.40am	The impact of climate change on weather variability into the future, Kevin Hennessy, CSIRO. Kevin's presentation will highlight the fact that communities will be facing growing challenges in the coming decades and that long term planning and adaptation is required at all levels.
10.15am	An update on the 'Fuel for Thought' report, Paul Graham, Theme Leader, Energy Transformed Flagship, Carbon Futures, CSIRO. Paul will discuss the peak oil analysis and what your week will look like when fuel is \$8 per litre.
10.45am	Morning tea
11.15am	Peak oil update: why we still have our heads in the sand, Matt Mushalik, peak oil planner. The latest input from the International Energy Agency and implications for Australia
11.45am	Rob Hopkins - video presentation on his new book, Transition Companion, followed by a live question and answer session. Rob is the co-founder of the global Transition Network and has initiated Transition Town Totnes, the first UK town to address the issues of life after peak oil. All attendees will also receive a copy of Rob's book, to be released in late October.
1pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Screening of the film 'Economics of Happiness', followed by discussion with Director Helena Norberg-Hodge. Helena is a pioneer of the 'new economy' movement, and has been promoting an economics of personal, social and ecological well-being for more than thirty years.
3.30pm	World Cafe facilitated discussion - Economic relocalisation and Local Government's role
4.45pm	Day one Close

Thursday November 24

9am	The new world of Food Connect, Sonya Wallace Sunshine Coast TT. Food Connect is a great example of permaculture design at a societal level by creating production and distribution systems (energy, food, water) rather than working in your own backyard or farm or perhaps creating an eco-village from scratch.
9.45am	David Holmgren - Energy Descent Action Planning in practice. David one of the co-originators of the permaculture movement and will discuss the need for a systemic approach to planning for a low carbon future for communities and individuals.
10.30am	Morning tea
11am	CASE Study: Geoff Adams - Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions (BREAZE). BREAZE is a non-profit grassroots organisation, which has come about because members of the Ballarat community want to demonstrate that individual and community-based actions can make a difference in our response to climate change. BREAZE was officially formed during a public forum in December 2006 when 40 people signed up to become members.
11.30am	CASE study: Kath Brackett, Brimbank Council. Kath has fascinating insights about engaging diverse communities around climate change: learning from and building on this knowledge.
12 noon	Marketing for Transition - social media and the internet, the missing link in community engagement, Patrick Blampied. (information pack will be provided to all participants)
12.30pm	Lunch
1.15pm	Communities, Councils and a Low Carbon Future: what we can if governments won't, Alexis Rowell (UK). This presentation will include current examples of best eco practice from local authorities across the UK and elsewhere, as well as a look at the background to unsuccessful projects. This book is designed to inform and inspire councils and councillors, as well as local environmental activists, community groups and Transition Initiatives. Local government can be a huge driver for positive change, but not on its own. Communities need to understand what they can reasonably (and unreasonably!) ask for from local councils, and they need to know exactly what levers they can pull.
2.15pm	World Cafe facilitated discussion - local government's role in local food production?
2.45pm	Next steps: Formation of regional CACIT groups? - launch of website?
3pm	Close

The History of the Transition Town Movement (extract).....

The rest, as they say, is history. From the learnings of the Totnes initiative and the great efforts by Rob and others to communicate their experience with the "Transition Model", it has inspired the start up of similar initiatives all over the world. There are a growing number of officially recognised Australian initiatives (including Transition Sydney) and many others 'mulling it over'. There have been over 40 Councils inducted into the MAV CACIT program and the aim is to involve all 79 Councils by the end of 2012. Let's make it happen.

Conference Cost: \$396 (including GST).

Note: no single day registrations are available

To register: go to www.mav.asn.au/events
(click on 'upcoming events' and scroll down)

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