

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 21.6.17

Letters in the Border Mail

Lauriston Muirhead's terrific letter in response to a climate denier was published in last Saturday's edition: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4731971/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Congratulations to David Sloane for getting his letter about Adani in the Border Mail on 16th May. Second one down: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4661177/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=11>

Here is Jenni Huber's letter regarding Downer's construction company and links to the Carmichael coal mine, published on 23rd May: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4672842/letters-to-the-editor/>

StopAdani Albury Wodonga - SAAW

SAAW, together with 200+ other StopAdani groups around Australia, is actively campaigning against the disastrous Carmichael megamine in Queensland, including:

Changing the politics - letters and meetings with Cathy McGowan and Sussan Ley, letters to Derryn Hinch and Nick Xenophon.

Stopping the money – letters, protests, petitions and chocolates (for Westpac) and more recently letters and meetings with CommBank.

Building the movement – three forums and screenings of Guarding the Galilee, letters to the editor, stalls, presentations and lots of conversations.

Stopping the construction – emails, a one hour 'occupation' of Wodonga's Downer construction company and more actions planned. Home video footage of the action has now been uploaded to our Facebook page (you don't need to have a FB account to watch it) - open this link then scroll down the page a bit: https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/?ref=page_internal

Email Jenni Huber for the details of the next meeting: jenniferruthuber@gmail.com.

Non-violent direct action training

On 7th May, approximately 16 Albury-Wodonga residents attended this six hour training by Nicola Paris from CounterAct. It provided useful insights into some of the nuts, bolts and legalities of civic resistance and helped StopAdani Albury-Wodonga members carry out their Downer action.

Adani in the media

Adani still not a done deal

Watch ABC's Media Watch absolutely nail Adani and the media for their false jobs claims and for claiming five times since 2012 that the mine is just about to start.

Leaders condemn Adani coal mine

Great to see religious and university leaders opposing the Adani mine.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/religion-and-ethics/faith-leaders-condemn-adani-coal-mine>

Climate Council New Report - Risky Business: Health, Climate and Economics Risks

This report canvases the risks of the proposed Carmichael Mine from a climate, economic and health perspective. The report can be accessed on our website [here](#). And here is an article which outlines these concerns: [Climate Council: climate, health and economics are against Carmichael mine](#)

Finkel Review

Q&A energy special: Finkel report offers political bipartisanship but communities need reassurance

Labor has flagged it would scale up a clean energy target (CET) recommended by Australia's chief scientist once in government, but Dr Alan Finkel says the community needs predictability on a Q&A special dedicated to his report.

Climate Council – Unpacking the Finkel Review

For those of you wondering what all the fuss is about, the Climate Council has unpacked the Finkel Review and written about it here: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/unpacking-the-finkel-review>

Cross benchers join in call for sensible energy policy

Independent Member for Indi Cathy McGowan has led a charge in Parliament by cross-benchers to push the government on sensible, community-focused energy policy. In a terrific speech, Cathy mentioned the work done by community energy groups including Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY), Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy) and Benalla Sustainable Future Group:

http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/cross_benchers_join_in_call_for_sensible_energy_policy

Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au>

Ecoportal is your online directory, listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. Follow Ecoportal on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

June <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-06/>

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-07/>

Selected events

Swanpool Environmental Film Festival, 24th June 2017

This is our fifth festival and we have another great line up of speakers and films for you. It follows the same format – three sessions with guest speakers and films to match, separated by afternoon tea and an evening meal served up by the fabulous Swanpool Catering Team. Details here:

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/swanpool-environmental-film-festival-24-june-2017/>

'Age of Consequences', Albury's Regent Cinema, 4pm, Sunday 25th June

Sanctuary Refugee Group will host a screening of this documentary that highlights climate change as an international security issue, giving rise to conflict and mass civil unrest.

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. These 380 word articles are published every Wednesday in the Border Mail. Karen Bowley has requested that you keep sending her your articles so this popular column is able to continue. Please email them to kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles:

[Living with Batteries](#) By David Macilwain, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Premier's Sustainability Awards](#) By Cath Newell

[Living Lightly Off the Grid](#) By David Macilwain, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Swap Shop](#) By Carolyn Re, Albury

[Living Lightly in Albury Wodonga](#) By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

Waste matters

[Plastic Free July - Home](#)

Joining the *challenge* is quite simple...choose to refuse single-use plastic during July. *Plastic Free July* aims to raise awareness of the problems with single-use plastics.

[Register](#) · [Plastic Free Shopping](#) · [Food storage](#) · [Cleaning](#)

War On Waste - ABC TV

Congratulations to Craig Reucassel and his team for this terrific three part series. Available on Iview until January 2018 so lots of time to catch it. <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/war-on-waste/>

Albury Wodonga's Repair Café

Celebrations were the order of the day at the June session after the 1,000th item walked through the door. When Albury-Wodonga's Repair Café opened in November 2015 it was the first in Victoria, now there are six, in Melbourne, Seymour, Castlemaine, Bendigo and Morwell.

Beechworth perfect fit with boomerang bags

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4734531/beeceworth-perfect-fit-with-boomerang-bags/?cs=11>

Ban the bag – The Project

<https://tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/the-project/top-stories-june-2017/banthebag>

Reviving the art of repair - Sanctuary Magazine

<http://www.sanctuarymagazine.org.au/ideas-advice/focus/reviving-the-art-of-repair/>

Energy news

Solar grids need to be cheaper: TRY

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4673445/solar-grids-need-to-be-cheaper-try/>

Future of solar energy

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4717535/future-of-solar-energy/?cs=11>

Lord Howe Island's plan for renewable energy rejected over 'visual impact' of wind turbines

Another appalling decision:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-13/lord-howe-islands-plans-for-wind-turbines-denied/8613506>

Solar power breaks UK records

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/26/solar-power-breaks-uk-records-thanks-sunny-weather>

Climate updates

Australia's climate deadlock – ABC Late Night Live

In recent months the management of climate change has become such a partisan and confusing issue. In the latest Quarterly Essay, Anna Krien travelled through coal country in Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef and South Australia, the place of last year's blackouts to investigate how debate about climate change became climate deadlock. Listen to this interview with Phillip Adams:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/the-long-goodbye:australias-climate-deadlock/8618650>

The Long Goodbye | Quarterly Essay

<https://www.quarterlyessay.com.au/>

Arctic stronghold of world's seeds flooded after permafrost melts

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/19/arctic-stronghold-of-worlds-seeds-flooded-after-permafrost-melts>

The three-minute story of 800,000 years of climate change with a sting in the tail

The current rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels is unprecedented in the past 800,000 years. As our video explains, ice cores track human changes to the atmosphere that are far beyond natural.

Time for China and Europe to lead, as Trump dumps the Paris climate deal

President Donald Trump's announcement that he will withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement comes as no surprise. After all, this is the man who famously claimed that climate change was a hoax created by the Chinese.

Congratulations!

Rewarding outstanding volunteers in North East Victoria

Landcare groups and community volunteers were recently recognised for their contributions to the environment and community at the North East Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards presentations and celebration of 30 Years of Landcare. <http://www.necma.vic.gov.au/News-Events/News/ArtMID/431/ArticleID/348/Rewarding-outstanding-volunteers-in-North-East-Victoria>

Wodonga Middle Years College was a winner of an Education Award. The award acknowledges work in increasing students' environmental awareness by planting and maintaining wild life corridors throughout the Felltimber campus. Congratulations to all!

Go bush with latest booklet 'Along the bush tracks'

Over 80 people attended the launch of this popular booklet. Well done to all concerned:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4683272/go-bush-with-latest-booklet/?cs=48>

The publication is available from the Parklands Albury Wodonga office. Contact PAW to arrange delivery.

<http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/contact-us/> Alternatively, download the third edition (2017) here for free. [Along the Bush Tracks Edition 3](#)

Good news story

Playspace created for public housing estate kids

Yackandandah sculptor Ben Gilbert has created a playspace made from recycled steel and rubber conveyor belts sourced from the mining industry, giving young residents of a Melbourne public housing estate a chance to have fun, get dirty, and make new friends. Read the full story here: <http://ab.co/2tkJMVk>

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next newsletter is due out on 19th July.

WATCH meetings

WATCH meets every second month in central Albury. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. Find out more by attending one of our friendly meetings. The next one is on Tuesday 9th August at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

WATCH website

Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

And follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies