

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 22.4.15

Update on this newsletter

During 2008, a regular one page reminder was sent to the thirty or so participants of a climate change letter writing workshop with ideas on what they could write to politicians. In 2009 it was renamed WATCHWORD and has since evolved into a monthly environmental newsletter. It now has a distribution of around 800, thanks to sign up sheets at markets, rallies and fairs. Emailing the newsletter has become increasingly time consuming so we've bitten the bullet and adopted Mail Chimp to send it out. As you will see, everything stays pretty much the same with a few minor changes to the format. But it makes life a lot easier for everyone! Thanks to Karen Retra for setting this up.

Letters in the Border Mail

Two letters from Lizette Salmon this month. Good work!

Future of local news in the region -Your Border has the best reach

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2996926/your-border-has-the-best-reach/?cs=52>

We should all be wary of CSG

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2990127/we-should-all-be-wary-of-csg/?cs=14>

Frackman, Wednesday 22nd April, 6.30 Regent Cinema Albury

Great to see this event was sold out on Monday, March 30 with over 200 attending. A percentage of tickets sales from the previous screening went to 'Lock the Gate', www.lockthegate.org.au

A second screening is on **this evening!** To view the trailer and purchase tickets

visit: <https://www.tugg.com/events/15737> And more details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/frackman-movie-screening-albury> Thanks to Diana Nicholson for organising both events.

Update on the RET

Waleed Aly stuns Twitter with renewable energy, climate change report

Waleed Aly set Twitter alight when he delivered a surprising report on climate change that made people think twice. The Project presenter outlined the Renewable Energy Target, which is meant to ensure that 20 per cent of electricity used in Australia comes from renewable energy sources by 2020. He summed up by saying "I don't think Tony Abbott cares," and referring to Australia's attitude towards climate change as "a wilful disregard for the future of this nation, by the people we've elected to lead us." <http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/tv/do-you-care-as-much-about-climate-change-as-waleed-aly/story-e6frfmyi-1227306997678>

Petition to the Victorian government

Here's some great analysis from Environment Victoria CEO Mark Wakeham on what we can expect from the Andrews government - and how state governments around the country can pave the way forward for clean energy.

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/can-the-andrews-government-be-the-leader-we-need-on-climate-change-14169> If, you want to see the Victorian government lead on climate and the environment then make sure you sign the petition here >bit.ly/timeforleadership

Climate action - or should that be inaction?

Climate Institute response to the Energy White Paper

Lenore Taylor provided a [good analysis](#) in the Guardian. Interestingly even the Energy Supply Association's release focused on the failure of the paper to address climate change policy:

<http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/articles/media-releases/energy-white-paper-mostly-a-fantasy-of-climate-ignorance.html>

Abbott government gives \$4m to help climate contrarian set up Australian centre

Just when you think it can't get any worse...

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/17/abbott-government-gives-4m-to-help-climate-sceptic-set-up-australian-centre?CMP=ema_632

Climate change debate all talk and no action

Another good article from Lenore Taylor on the government's emissions reductions 'strategy', detailing all the ways it doesn't work and is based on planning for a temperature rise of 3.7°C. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/10/australias-climate-change-debate-all-talk-and-no-action>

Climate fight won't wait for Paris: vive la résistance

Read what Bill McKibben has to say:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/09/climate-fight-wont-wait-for-paris-vive-la-resistance>

Time for stateswomen to step forward on climate change

A terrific article by Ian Dunlop:

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/time-for-stateswomen-to-step-forward-on-climate-change-20150407-1mdgil.html>

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

Your online directory listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

You can join our list to receive weekly or monthly messages by visiting the [newsletter sign up](#) page.

Welcome this month to **Healthy Together Wodonga**: <http://ecoportal.net.au/organisations/healthy-together-wodonga>

What's on in April and May - check all events here:

April <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/04/19/month/all/all/1>

May <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/05/19/month/all/all/1>

Building a Local Food Future forum, Friday 1st May, Wodonga

The North East Regional Landcare Facilitators in partnership with Healthy Together Wodonga are hosting the forum which will cover a wide range of topics relating to food security, including sustainable long-term food production, food access for all and growing a local food economy. Places are limited so register by **27th April**. Details at

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/building-local-food-future-forum>

Healthy Together Wodonga

That Sugar Film Screening + Panel, 28 April, The Cube, Wodonga

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/sugar-film-screening-panel>

Healthy Eating Workshop for Parents and Carers

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/healthy-eating-workshop-parents-and-carers>

TeamUp App workshop - Find new members for your community group or sports club, 4th and 7th May, The Cube, Wodonga, 6-7pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/teamup-app-workshop-find-new-members-your-community-group-or-sports-club>

Selected events

Our Native Garden Grand Opening, Saturday 2nd May, 2pm

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/our-native-garden-nursery-grand-opening-plant-sales-public>

Our Native Garden is a community owned, volunteer run indigenous plant nursery dedicated to developing balanced ecosystems.

Wodonga Library sustainability/food garden sessions in May and June

Five 1-2 hour talks/workshops (on backyard chickens, worm farms and liquid fertilisers, native bees and bee hotels, organic pest control and herb gardening) are being hosted by Wodonga Library on Tuesdays in May and June. Click for a [flyer](#) detailing these sessions.

NSW Government Free Event- Solar PV for business, Howlong

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/nsw-government-free-event-solar-pv-business>

Energy Cut business event - cut your energy bills, Thursday June 4, 5.30- 8.30pm, GOTAFE, Docker Street Wangaratta

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/energy-cut-business-event-cut-your-energy-bills>

With guest speaker and co-founder of Planet Ark Jon Dee. RSVP by June 1st. Ph 03 5722 0888 or council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Living Lightly <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly>

Living Lightly articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for over four years. If you would like to contribute then please send a 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com All previous articles are on the Ecoportal website and they form a wonderful resource of local action and ideas: www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly

Recent articles

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/wild-pollinator-count-what-will-you-see> By Karen Retra, [Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga](#)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/can-council-live-lightly> By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/inspiration-driving-factor> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/mobile-phone-recycling> By Melissa Kane, Eco-warrior mum

Growing food

Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga Inc.

SSAW now has a brand new website at ssaw.org.au. So please take a look!

<p>Wednesday April 22nd, Understanding cucurbits http://ecoportal.net.au/event/seed-savers-albury-wodonga-gathering-understanding-cucurbits</p>

Here are some comments about the discussion at the previous gathering about fruit fly:

<http://ssaw.org.au/2015/03/20/first-gathering-for-2015-fruit-fly-a-hot-topic/>

How is global warming impacting food and farming regions in Australia?

A new report prepared reveals the impact that shifting rainfall patterns, extreme weather, warming oceans, and climate related diseases will have on the production, quality and cost of Australia's food in the future.

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/how-is-global-warming-impacting-food-farming-regions-in-australia>

We're treating soil like dirt. It's a fatal mistake! George Monbiot

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/25/treating-soil-like-dirt-fatal-mistake-human-life>

Practising English and skills in a garden

Another great story from the National Environment Centre:

<http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/practising-english-and-skills-in-a-garden.html>

Farmers on Film - Landline – ABC

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2015/s4206716.htm>

Renewable energy updates

Victorian Labor ditches 2km wind farm restrictions, reforms planning laws

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/vic-labor-ditches-2km-wind-farm-restrictions-reforms-planning-laws-66306>

Spain got 47% of its electricity from renewables in March

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/spain-got-47-of-its-electricity-from-renewables-in-march-21961>

The global renewable energy boom: how Australia is missing out

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/globalrenewablesreport>

France decrees new rooftops must be covered in plants or solar panels

Amazing!

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/20/france-decrees-new-rooftops-must-be-covered-in-plants-or-solar-panels?CMP=share_btn_fb

Fossil fuels

Hazelwood: Australia's dirtiest power station in nation with the world's dirtiest power industry

http://www.climatecoded.org/2015/04/hazelwood-australias-dirtiest-power.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ClimateCodeRed+%28climate+code+red%29

Dear Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust: 180,000 reasons to lead on climate change

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2015/apr/16/gates-foundation-wellcome-trust-climate-change-divest-fossil-fuels-guardian?CMP=ema-60>

Fossil fuel-free super funds pay off for investors

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/fossil-fuel-free-super-funds-pay-off-for-investors-20150410-1mhpiu.html>

Emissions soar as brown coal booms after carbon tax repeal

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/emissions-soar-as-brown-coal-booms-after-carbon-tax-repeal-22126>

Radio National highlights

Demystifying sustainability - Ockham's Razor

An excellent overview:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/demystifying-sustainability/6377398>

Parliamentary inquiry into environmental organisations' donation spending

A disturbing attack on our environmental organisations:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/parliamentary-inquiry-into-environmental/6363758>

Bees!

Native cuckoo bee spotting ahead of Wild Pollinator Count

Another beautiful photo of one of our native bees:

<http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/native-cuckoo-bee-spotting-ahead-of-wild-pollinator-count.html>

A London Street Artist Paints Swarms of Bees on Urban Walls to Raise Awareness of Colony Collapse Disorder

How art helps to get the message across:

<http://www.thisiscoolossal.com/2015/03/save-the-bees-mural-project/>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. **Please note there will be no May edition of WATCHWORD.** Next one is due out on Wednesday 24th June. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 22nd June to jdjdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies

WATCH website <http://watch.id.au> **WATCH email address:** watch.albwod@gmail.com

Keep up to date by checking the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links:

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>