

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 26.4.17

### **'Guarding the Galilee' film night and Stop Adani public forum – fully booked**

**Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup>. 7 - 8:30 pm @ Hothouse Theatre**

The award-winning documentary team captures the raw beauty of the Queensland outback, where Adani's mine threatens essential water resources and the future of the Great Barrier Reef. We will hear from local environmentalist Lizette Salmon, solar renewables expert, Bobbi McKibbin and [350.org](http://350.org)'s Media & Communications Coordinator Cam Klose. There will be an audience Q&A feature after the film.

This event is now fully booked but we'll do our best to host a second screening in Albury-Wodonga if there's sufficient interest. Please email Tracey Esler ([tesesler@gmail.com](mailto:tesesler@gmail.com)) if you'd like to be notified.

### **Border action group sees the big picture**

The mission of the Albury-Wodonga chapter of the Stop Adani movement is to stop the Adani mine and shift Australia away from dirty coal to a clean energy future. The team has been reaching out to MPs and Westpac bank managers who have been invited to the film night.

### **Well done!**

Many thanks to the Stop Adani Albury Wodonga team for doing a sterling job collecting signatures at the Farmers Market last Saturday. Despite the rain, the team managed to get 218 signatures on the Westpac petition. Here is a link to the Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/?ref=br_rs)

### **Stop Adani Roadshow**

Thousands of Australians packed out city halls and convention centres along the east coast for the #StopAdani Roadshow, with another 40,000 watching online. Since then, over 100 new action groups have launched. [LIKE and SHARE this Roadshow Video to tell the world that we are ready to #StopAdani](#)

## Contact your Federal MP

If the Adani issue is something you feel strongly about then contact Cathy McGowan and Sussan Ley. They need to know how individuals are feeling in their electorate. Please write a letter or send an email:

**Cathy McGowan, Federal member for Indi** [Cathy.McGowan.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Cathy.McGowan.MP@aph.gov.au)

117 Murphy St Wangaratta 3677. Phone (03) 5721 7077

**Sussan Ley, Federal member for Farrer** [Sussan.Ley.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Sussan.Ley.MP@aph.gov.au)

517 Kiewa St (PO Box 672) Albury NSW 2640. Phone (02) 6021 3264

## More on Adani

### **John Hewson says \$1bn loan to Adani the 'last thing' Coalition should be doing**

A former Liberal party leader says the controversial Adani Carmichael coalmine is already a "stranded asset" and the last thing the Turnbull government should be doing is lending Adani \$1bn.

### **Adani is not just another coalmine, it is a turning point for the nation**

If the government approves this monstrous mine it will be committing environmental treason against every Australian who values our farmers, our coasts, our bush and our way of life

### **Barnaby Joyce's 'duck pond' claim under fire as Adani coal row deepens**

Good to see Coalition MP Sarah Henderson breaking ranks and expressing her concern plus a great cartoon by Cathy Wilcox: <http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/barnaby-joyces-duck-pond-claims-under-fire-as-adani-coal-row-deepens-20170413-gvkgk.html>

## Recent letters in the Border Mail

### Well past use-by date

Here's a letter from Graham Parton about the recent closure of Hazelwood:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4573186/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=52>

### An uncertain future

David Macilwain's letter expresses similar sentiments to Graham. Third one down.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4576851/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

## 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>

**April** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-04/>

**May** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-05/>

## Selected events

### 'This Changes Everything', 4pm, Sunday 14th May, St Stephen's Uniting Church, Beechworth Road, Wodonga

The Social Justice Group at St. Stephen's Uniting Church Wodonga/Uniting Care Wodonga will be screening the DVD "This Changes Everything" followed by an informal soup/slice/cuppa and chat. In light of recent statements on climate change at the national and international level, this DVD depicts a number of very serious issues across the earth that have potential to influence the lives of our children and grandchildren, All welcome.

## Living Lightly

*Living Lightly* is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website [www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/](http://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](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com)

### More interesting articles this month:

[Preserving Citrus by Fermentation](#) By Gerri Boland, Wooragee Landcare member

[A Snake Tale](#) By Maureen Cooper, Wooragee Landcare

[Paddock to Plate: the Earth Hour Cookbook](#) By Karen Bowley, [WATCH](#) and [Wooragee Landcare](#).

## Waste? No, resource recovery!

### Yackandandah Folk Festival Green Team

20 enthusiastic volunteers staffed the Halve Waste Depot. 54 bins that were sorted were consolidated into 35 bins of which only 4 were landfill. There were 18 bins of recyclable material, 2 bins of aluminium cans provided to Yackandandah Scouts and 2 bins of soft plastics for recycling through the RedCycle bin in Chiltern. 9 bins of compostable material have since been shredded for use in the Community Garden. Thanks to Doug Westland for coordinating this initiative.

Read Clare Cunnington's letter in the Border Mail for more tips from the Green Team – third letter down:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4566011/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14> And here's a follow up letter from Lauren Howlett with more recycling suggestions: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4587326/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

### [Waste not, want never](#)

North East eateries and producers cut waste down to size as sustainability thrives.

### Ban the Bag petition

Great to see this being aired on The Project:

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

## Support to ban plastic bags - Wangaratta Chronicle

<https://wangarattachronicle.com.au/2017/04/24/support-to-ban-plastic-bags/>

## Get ready Australia...ABC's War on Waste starts in May

<https://tv.press.abc.net.au/get-ready-australiaabcs-war-on-waste-starts-in-may>

## Community renewable energy

### Wodonga Community Solar Project

The aim of this project is to identify a way that low income houses in Wodonga can directly benefit from a large scale solar installation. Representatives from Moreland Energy Foundation Limited (MEFL) are investigating and identifying the options. A workshop for stakeholders was held in March. Here's a recent post from MEFL with further details: <http://www.mefl.com.au/news/wodonga-community-solar/> For more information, please contact RAW Energy: [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy-1628745107358278/>

## Local news stories

### [Solar and battery storage set to power Victorian water plant](#)

Victorian utility North East Water has announced plans to install solar and battery storage at its water treatment plant in the regional town of Yackandandah.

North East Water has released a short video that supports the pledge they're making to reduce emissions and invest in renewable energy. <http://newater.com.au/current-projects/strategic-projects/climate-change.asp>

### [Boost for local business \(video\)](#)

At a time when some border businesses are facing major power issues, one local company, Wilson Transformers, is using it to their advantage with the launch of a new product.

## Biodiversity updates

### [Thanks for counting!](#)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 Autumn Wild Pollinator Count. We've broken our autumn record for number of observations submitted. The submission form is now closed and we will post a results summary on the blog soon. The spring count will be on from 12-19 November.

### **100 regent honeyeaters take to the wild in 2017 release**

A record number of regent honeyeaters are being released into Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park and the conservation program's success has prompted plans to expand into NSW.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4593684/record-regent-release/#slide=2>

## Great Barrier Reef

### **What Cyclone Debbie means for the Great Barrier Reef – Border Mail**

This is an excellent article making the key points about ocean temperatures, the effects of cyclones (includes stirring and cooling the water), and links to climate change caused by emissions.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4561229/what-cyclone-debbie-means-for-the-great-barrier-reef/?cs=53>

### **Climate change - a deadly threat to coral reefs**

Intensifying climate change remains the biggest threat to coral reefs around the world, with rising sea surface temperatures driving widespread bleaching events, according to the Climate Council's latest report. The report '*Climate Change: A Deadly Threat to Coral Reefs*', shows worsening bleaching events are also placing tourism and global economies at risk, with the loss of coral reefs potentially costing an astounding \$1 trillion. [DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

Please [share this video](#) to show your support for the reef and keep the conversation going. Great to see this was aired on The Project.

### [Is this the worst mistake Australia could make?](#)

The opposition to the Adani coal mine is reaching a crucial crunch point. What has been so striking about the reporting of this project in most media has been the failure to mention its most significant feature – contributing to climate change that will affect the Barrier Reef. The article is long but succeeds in covering all the aspects of this case.

## Radio National interviews

### [Back-to-back mass bleaching confirmed for GBR](#)

One of Australia's leading marine biologists, Terry Hughes, has just completed aerial surveys of more than 500 reefs on the Great Barrier Reef north from Mackay to the Torres Strait.

### [Minister's claim 'beggars belief': water expert](#)

Groundwater expert Tom Crothers says Adani got special treatment for its water license.

### [Climate change: a turning point in public health?](#)

What's the role and responsibility of public health professionals in protecting the public's 'right to health' in an age of unprecedented global warming?

### [Gridlock? Making sense of the electricity market](#)

Electricity bills have doubled in the last five years. In fact, in the last decade Australia has gone from having almost the cheapest power in the world to some of the most expensive.

## Jane Goodall talks revolution at 83

Never too old to be an inspiration:

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/the-worlds-favourite-chimpanzee-whisperer-jane-goodall-talks-revolution-at-83-20170417-gvlzta>

## Vale John Clarke

### **A genius, a friend and a man of science**

Greatly missed by so many people. Here's a tribute from Robyn Williams: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-10/john-clarke-was-a-genius-a-friend-and-a-man-of-science/8431090>.

### **Oh John - Leunig**

<http://www.leunig.com.au/works/recent-cartoons/742-oh-john>

**Thanks again** to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. There will be **no** May edition. Next newsletter is due out on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> June 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](http://www.watch.id.au)

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

**WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

*Warm regards,*

*Jenny Davies*