

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 19.8.15

WATCH updates

Advocacy in Indi and Farrer

At recent WATCH and North East Regional Sustainability Alliance meetings, we discussed the importance of continuing to make our views heard to our local politicians. They consistently need to hear that the community wants greater action on climate change. With that in mind, please send emails or write letters to Member for Indi Cathy McGowan

<http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/contact> and Member for Farrer Sussan Ley

<http://sussanley.com/contact/> so they can pass on your concerns to the relevant ministers.

Target to 'dry out Border', The Border Mail

WATCH's liaison with CSU's Dr Andrew Hall and *Border Mail* journalist Nigel McNay led to this article: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3279556/target-to-dry-out-border/?cs=11>

Letters to the editor, The Border Mail

Lizette Salmon's letter 'Environment is everything' was a timely read in the BM:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3274968/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

2030 emissions targets

Australia's 2030 climate target puts us in the race, but at the back

<https://theconversation.com/australias-2030-climate-target-puts-us-in-the-race-but-at-the-back-45931>

Climate Change Authority head Bernie Fraser issues blistering rebuke to Abbott government

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/climate-change-authority-head-bernie-fraser-issues-blistering-rebuke-to-abbott-government-20150814-gizh1f.html>

Myths of the Australian climate change debate

A guide to separating fact and fiction on climate change and greenhouse gas targets:

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/myths-of-the-australian-climate-change-debate-20150815-gizoe8.html#ixzz3ixWjk6Lo>

Government will not 'put the environment ahead of the economy' – video

Just about sums it up....

http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/video/2015/aug/11/emissions-reduction-environment-economy-tony-abbott-video?CMP=soc_567

World leaders speak out

Barack Obama announces limits on US power plant emissions, declares climate change greatest threat facing world

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-04/obama-says-climate-change-greatest-threat-facing-world/6669828>

The Pope's Encyclical

Section numbers 23-26, 'Climate as a common goal', are very well written for a general audience:

http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

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. This month we welcome new listings for: [Bright Community Garden](#), [Repair Cafe Albury Wodonga](#) and [Bungam Community Garden](#). Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

What's on in August and September

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-08/>

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-09/>

Selected events

The Great Cogenerator launch, Tuesday 25 August, 10.30am, Wangaratta

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/great-cogenerator-launch/>

The Cogenerator uses a natural gas powered engine to generate electricity for the Centre. Heat from the engine is also captured and used to warm the swimming pools, showers and space heating. Follow link for registration details: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cogenerator-launch-rural-city-of-wangaratta-tickets-17843116241>

Write Around the Murray Festival, Albury, 9 –13 September 2015

Tim Flannery will discuss his forthcoming book, *Atmosphere of Hope: Searching for Solutions to the Climate Crisis* and be part of a panel discussion on climate change and fiction with novelists James Bradley and Jane Rawson. James Bradley's novel *Clade* has been called the first great novel of climate change. Details here: <http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/>

Sustainable House Day Forum, Wednesday 9th September, 5.30-7.30pm, Barr Reserve Eco Living Community centre, Park Lane, Wangaratta

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/sustainable-house-day-forum/>

RSVP: by Sep 7 2015 to Council's Environment Unit 03 5722 0888 or council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Sustainable House Day, Sunday 13th September – various locations

Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability (BULS) and Indigo Shire Council present four participating properties in Beechworth. More information will become available on <http://sustainablehouseday.com>. Pam Proctor has her home open near Wangaratta: <http://sustainablehouseday.com/house/granite-gardens-house/>

North East Rural Living Fair, Wooragee, Sunday 13th September, 10am - 2 pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/north-east-rural-living-fair-2/>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is now being published in Wednesday's Border Mail. Karen Bowley is always in need of articles so please send yours to kbowley53@gmail.com. Thank you again to our regular contributors.

Recent articles

[Living lightly in the garden](#) By David Thurley, Albury Councillor

[Coal v wind](#) By Glenn Wilson, Tallangatta Valley

[Sustainable communities looking after each other](#) By Elizabeth Leathbridge

Help required

Iconic Eucalypt Guide - Corowa District Landcare

Corowa District Landcare has received a Partnership and Capacity Building grant from Murray Local Land Services to print a brochure/guide on Iconic Eucalypts. Do you know of any eucalypts on public land that have an interesting social history? Contact Joanne Diver, Project Officer, Landcare Office: 02 6033 8933 Mobile: 0412 985 501 corowalandcare2@bigpond.com

Climate updates

Adapt NSW - understanding and adapting to climate change impacts in NSW

This new website is full of useful information and well worth a look. There are educational resources, links to videos and fact sheets. Click on the link:

<http://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/>

Climate of the Nation 2015 - The Climate Institute

<http://climateinstitute.org.au/climate-of-the-nation-2015.html>

Dutch government held to climate account - Law Report - ABC Radio National

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lawreport/dutch-government-held-to-climate-account/6667370>

Clean energy

How much would Labor's 50% renewable energy policy cost Australian households?

<https://theconversation.com/how-much-would-labors-50-renewable-energy-policy-cost-australian-households-44997>

Introducing 'One Step Off The Grid' - Renew Economy

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/introducing-our-new-sister-site-one-step-off-the-grid-27822>

Financing secured for biggest rooftop solar array for an Australian school

<http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/acts-biggest-school-to-install-territorys-biggest-rooftop-solar-array-600kw/>

Fossil fuels

World Bank rejects energy industry notion that coal can cure poverty

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/29/world-bank-coal-cure-poverty-rejects>

Shenhua's mine: is it worth the risk? - Background Briefing - ABC Radio National

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/shenhuas-mine-is-it-worth-the-risk/6672376>

Abbott warns against courts 'sabotaging' projects such as Carmichael coalmine

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/07/abbott-warns-against-courts-sabotaging-projects-such-as-carmichael-coalmine?CMP=soc_567

Former head of NAB says Australia's dependence on coal exports is 'economically reckless' - RN Breakfast - ABC Radio National

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/former-head-of-nab-says-australias-dependence-on-coal/6667202>

Good news stories

Repair Cafe

Four Repair Café sessions will be trialed in Wodonga, first in November, then monthly from February-April 2016. Repairer recruitment is going well. Generalist handypersons/woodworkers and bike mechanics are still being sought. If you're interested in lending a hand or finding out more, please get in touch with Lizette– lizette@salmonfamily.id.au or (02) 60 59 4185. Here's a link to a terrific radio interview on ABC Local featuring Lizette Salmon and Garry Knight: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/07/31/4284620.htm>

Waste not, want not with this cafe concept | The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3230744/waste-not-want-not-with-this-cafe-concept/>

Bungam Community Garden, Albury

On a little plot of land on the corner of Englehardt, Creek and Stanley Street, on the edge of Bungambrawatha Creek, is the most recent community garden in Albury Wodonga. Details of the construction of the Bungam Community Garden can be found on the Seed Savers Albury Wodonga website. Thanks to Karen Retra for the video! <http://ssaw.org.au/2015/08/03/bungamgarden>

Farm Art in the Bush, 12th and 13th of September, Wirraminna, Burrumbuttock

Last year's successful event attracted 30 local and interstate artists with many visitors travelling hundreds of kilometres to attend. All enjoyed Wirraminna's unique setting of wetlands, bush and landscaped areas linked by walking tracks while viewing the displays. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/farm-art-in-the-bush-2015-3-4/>

Benalla Sustainable Future Group newsletter

BSFG puts out a fabulous newsletter every three months. Contact John Lloyd if you would like to be added to the distribution list: andrewslloyd@inet.net.au

How climate scientists feel

We hear a lot from climate scientists about the facts and stats, but what about what they feel? [Is This How You Feel?](#) is a moving exhibition of hand written letters from some of Australia's leading climate researchers, including Prof. Lesley Hughes and Prof. Will Steffen. You can see all the letters here: <http://bit.ly/1pRvOVi>

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

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

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 23 September. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 21 September to jdjdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies

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