

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 24.8.16

### WATCH news

#### Letters in the Border Mail and The Age

Gina Rinehart has recently appointed Sophie Mirabella to the position of general manager of government and media relations: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4093233/sophies-plum-job-with-gina/> Read Lizette Salmon's letter to the Border Mail: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4095499/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14> A modified version was also published in the Age on 16<sup>th</sup> August. And for those of you who missed it, here a clip of the 'mock wedding' held in May: <https://youtu.be/L91qkTKNaig>

#### Record-breaking heat

Great work by Bruce Key being interviewed on Prime News about the hottest June ever recorded and stressing the importance of transitioning to renewable energy. Helen Ballard made reference to the mock wedding and included footage of that event: <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/v1/video/-/watch/32115517/record-breaking-heat/>

**June 2016 was hottest in recorded history marking 14th consecutive month to break records** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-20/hottest-june-in-modern-times-scientists-say/7643240?section=environment>

#### Meeting with Jeremy Buckingham, NSW Greens MP

WATCH representatives met with the NSW Greens MP when he was in Albury recently. Jeremy gave an update on fossil fuels which he says are in decline across the board. He believes we need to create a space in the grid for renewables by closing down power stations such as Hazelwood and to develop strategic plans to minimise impacts on mining communities. For further details of the meeting send a request to: [jdjbdavies@gmail.com](mailto:jdjbdavies@gmail.com)

#### ClimateWatch Trail Launch, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 3 - 4pm, Albury Botanic Gardens

We are excited about the launch of this trail! Every Australian can be a citizen scientist by collecting and recording data through the ClimateWatch app. This invaluable information will help scientists better understand how climate change is affecting our wildlife and shape the country's response to climate change. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/climatewatch-trail-launch/>

#### 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 11<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

### Health impacts of climate pollution

#### Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and Sussan Ley

As readers of this newsletter already know, WATCH has tried to engage with federal Health Minister Sussan Ley on this issue, with little success. Now Nobel Laureate for Medicine Professor Peter Doherty says the inclusion of health in the Paris Agreement obliges Ms Ley to get involved with climate change mitigation policies, as world health agencies name climate change as the "[greatest threat to global health of the 21st Century](#)".

[Read the article: 'Climate policy needs a new lens: health and well-being' published in \*The Conversation\* by CAHA Executive Director Fiona Armstrong and Professor Peter Doherty.](#)

[Read the letter from CAHA to the Health Minister, Sussan Ley, here.](#)

[Want to support a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being? Click here to send an e-mail to your local MP and Senators](#)

## 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. We welcome new groups [DELWP](#) (Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Hume region, Victoria) and [Good Life Community Coop](#). Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

**August** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-08/>

**September** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-09/>

## 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/). The word limit has been reduced to 380. Please keep the articles coming and send them to Karen Bowley: [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com)

### Recent articles

[Eco-friendly Decluttering](#) By Thea McCarthy, Wangaratta

[Food Swap](#) By Sue Slater, Projects Manager, Birallee Park Neighbourhood House Inc

[Cooking Under Pressure](#) By Leanne Murphy, Beechworth

[Make a difference](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

[Degradable plastic bags – be aware!](#) By John Lloyd, [Benalla Sustainable Future Group](#)

## Sustainable Activity Centre - SAC

### Recycling plastics at the SAC

It's better to avoid plastic purchases than recycle, but for things which are difficult to avoid and difficult to recycle, these can now be recycled through the Sustainable Activity Centre. As you may have read in the Border Mail [here](#) the SAC is now a collection point for several streams of waste via the National Terracycle Program. For more information on Terracycle click [here](#).

Some companies are taking back their waste and turning it into useful items. Specific products from certain brands can be recycled. These include: Australia Post branded mail satchels, BIC pens (only the plastic outers), cleaner packaging by Australian Pure, Earth Choice, Organic Care, Purity Sensitive and Nature's Organics, and Colgate - toothbrushes, toothpaste containers, floss containers.

### Free Movie Night – *Story of Stuff*, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 7- 9 pm, SAC

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/free-movie-night-story-of-stuff/>

The SAC is based at the former Wodonga Tourist Information Centre, between La Maison and GIGS (Gateway Island Gallery Space). Please check out the website and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter. So much going on! <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/>

## Food and gardens

### Wodonga Healthy Eating guide

The Catering Guide is a partnership between Wodonga Council, Gateway Health and six local caterers with the aim of assisting workplaces, associations and groups everywhere to make healthy choices when catering. Here is the [link](#) for it on council's website. For details contact Health Promotion Coordinator Megan Hunt at [megan.hunt@gatewayhealth.org.au](mailto:megan.hunt@gatewayhealth.org.au)

### Birallee Park Neighbourhood House food swap

Our food/plant swap happens every day from 9am-2pm inside Birallee Park Neighbourhood House at 39 Emerald Avenue, West Wodonga. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/food-swap-bir-sep/>

### Seed Savers Albury Wodonga

Take a browse around our website [ssaw.org.au](http://ssaw.org.au) and check the [calendar of events](#) for the rest of the year.

### Beechworth Food Co-op

The Beechworth Food Co-op is a member-owned and operated community initiative, providing members with access to healthy and sustainable whole food. The Co-op was successful in two recent grant submissions which means an upgrade to the refrigeration systems which will allow the sale of more local fresh produce. Check out the website [www.beechworthfoodcoop.org.au](http://www.beechworthfoodcoop.org.au)

## **Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 9am – 2pm, Stanley**

With Steve Burns – master grafter and permaculture educator

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/fruit-tree-grafting-workshop/>

## **Yack Community Garden - Food Swap, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Our regular monthly food swap. Everything edible welcome <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/yack-community-garden-food-swap-s16/>

## **Sustainable living**

### **Goodlife Community Cooperative – The Commons, Mate Street, North Albury**

What a first month for The Commons, the Co-op's shopfront to the community! Over 700 people through the door, over \$25,000 worth of items re-distributed, and over 1000 kilos of stuff kept out of landfill. You can learn more here: <http://goodlifecoop.wix.com/home>.

### **Sustainable House Day, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Sustainable houses and gardens will be open in Wangaratta, Murrumbidgee, Gapsted, Myrtleford and Buffalo River. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/sustainable-house-day/>

### **CSU is Australia's first carbon neutral university!**

CSU has been declared Australia's first official carbon neutral university. Certified as 'Carbon Neutral' against the National Carbon Offset Standard as part of the Australian Government's Carbon Neutral Program, CSU are once again demonstrating leadership in sustainability. [Find out more about how we reached our target.](#)

### **Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga**

<http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/>

Repair Café Albury-Wodonga is a free meeting place to bring along broken household items and learn how to fix them with the help of experienced, volunteer repairers. First Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm at the Sustainable Activity Centre.

## **Energy matters**

### **Wangaratta solar farm expanding**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4061039/solar-plan-expanding/?cs=11>

A solar farm proposed for Wangaratta could double in size. A development application for a 20-megawatt solar farm has been lodged with Wangaratta Council after initial plans for a 10-megawatt system.

### **Climate Council urges bigger push towards renewables as community energy projects take off**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-09/climate-council-says-community-renewable-energy-on-rise/7702866>

### **UK beats Australia in the large scale solar stakes!**

When it comes to large-scale solar production, rainy old UK is ranked #3 in the world while sunny Australia is #20. It's clear that the global transition to renewables is underway. And if we follow [Broken Hill's lead on solar](#), our whole country could be powered by renewable energy. [Share our video to show your support for large-scale solar in Australia](#)

### **COAG Energy Council Meeting Outcomes**

Last week's COAG Energy Council meeting was deemed a success – or was it? Views are divided.

<http://www.energymatters.com.au/renewable-news/energy-council-meeting-em5624/>

## **Writing to our pollies**

### **Josh Frydenberg and Matthew Canavan**

Josh Frydenberg, the new Environment and Energy minister, makes some interesting points in this clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpz31-zisvc>

Matthew Canavan, Resource Minister and Minister for Northern Australia, has recently stated that Adani's Carmichael coal is “an incredibly exciting project for our country” and that “there is a level of uncertainty about the impact of carbon emissions.” [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jul/19/matthew-canavan-says-there-is-uncertainty-around-cause-of-climate-change?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jul/19/matthew-canavan-says-there-is-uncertainty-around-cause-of-climate-change?CMP=share_btn_tw)

Members of NERSA - North East Regional Sustainability Network- have recently written letters to both politicians and some of you might like to do the same. Alan Baker from Wangaratta Sustainability Network has compiled a list of points which he made in a letter to Matthew Canavan. If you would like to receive a copy, plus relevant contact details, please send an email to [jdjbdavies@gmail.com](mailto:jdjbdavies@gmail.com)

### **Online course 'Making sense of climate science denial'**

A couple of WATCH members have completed this course and both thoroughly recommend it. Here is the link: <https://www.edx.org/course/making-sense-climate-science-denial-uqx-denial101x-1>

### **Coal!**

#### **From the rich black soil of the Liverpool Plains springs hope for coalmine-free future**

Some good news here: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/13/from-the-rich-black-soil-of-the-liverpool-plains-springs-hope-for-coalmine-free-future?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/13/from-the-rich-black-soil-of-the-liverpool-plains-springs-hope-for-coalmine-free-future?CMP=share_btn_fb)

#### **Coal is behind the attacks on wind turbines. It's fighting for its life**

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/coal-is-behind-the-attacks-on-wind-turbines-its-fighting-for-its-life-20160727-gqeln3.html>

#### **Take charge of your own destiny | Latrobe Valley Express**

And once again, community grassroots action shows the way:

<http://www.latrobevalleyexpress.com.au/story/4088600/take-charge-of-your-own-destiny/>

### **The man who stopped the desert**

Yacouba Sawadogo is an innovative African farmer who has been travelling across the deserts for the last 30 years reviving ancient re-forestation and soil conservation techniques. His only tools are a shovel and a firm belief that everything can be changed for the better. His amazing results speak for themselves.

<http://brightside.me/wonder-people/the-man-who-stopped-the-desert-130905/>

**Thanks again** to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

*Warm regards,  
Jenny Davies*

**WATCH website** Please check our website: [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

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

**WATCH Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>