

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 16.8.17

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga

What do locals think of the Adani mine? Check out our video!

A random survey of 500 people in Albury, Wodonga and Beechworth demonstrated high opposition to the mine. Watch this quick clip for all the details:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/videos/?ref=page_internal

Pose in a photo with Sussan Ley outside her office, 3.30pm, Friday 18th August, Kiewa St, Albury

Come join us as we present our survey results to Sussan Ley. She's meeting with three of our members and agreed to a photo outside her office afterwards. A large crowd of us will really demonstrate the strength of local opposition to Adani. Bring StopAdani posters but please put them aside during the photo with Sussan. We'll be taking two shots, one with posters and the second with Ms Ley accepting our survey report. This will be a peaceful family-friendly occasion, with children more than welcome.

Contact Cathy McGowan

SAAW reps met with one of Cathy's advisers who said she'd pass on our requests, including that Cathy take a stance on Adani and talk to Malcolm Turnbull about our survey results. If you wish to let Cathy know your views on the Adani mine, why not write her a letter? The links on this page may be useful if you need ideas on how to do this: <https://watch.id.au/meetings-letter-writing/>

Contact details: Cathy McGowan, Federal member for Indi Cathy.McGowan.MP@aph.gov.au 117 Murphy St, Wangaratta 3677. Phone (03) 5721 7077.

Help get signatures for our petition

Cathy suggested we organise a StopAdani petition, to be tabled in Parliament and as further evidence of local opposition to the mine. If you live in Indi (including Wodonga, Wangaratta, Beechworth and Yackandandah) we'd really appreciate your help gathering signatures. Get in touch with Ed Voort for details: evooqt@bigpond.net.au

Finance update

Last week the Commonwealth Bank confirmed they would not be in the running to finance the Adani Carmichael coal mine. This week the bank released its new climate change position statement which contains no restrictions on coal or fossil fuel lending, allowing the bank to keep financing the expansion of the fossil fuel industry. [Tell Commbank: no new fossil fuels!](#)

The biggest threat of finance going to Adani now comes from the government who wants to sink up to \$1 billion of our public funds into the rail line that would open up the Galilee Basin. [Please tell the NAF: no to financing Adani!](#)

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga meeting

The next #StopAdani Albury Wodonga meeting is 6.00-7.30pm, Thursday 7th September at the Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island. Please RSVP to Tracey Esler: tesesler@gmail.com
Or contact Tracey to join the mailing list.

Upcoming events

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power, Albury Cinema Centre

In the sequel to 2006's 'An Inconvenient Truth', Al Gore returns to show the plight of the human race and its need to continue fighting climate change. It opens on Thursday 24th August. Here's the powerful trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huX1bmfdkyA>

Climate Forum, Adamshurst, Albury, David Street, August 29th, 7pm

Jill and Michael Finnane from the Edmund Rice Institute in Sydney will be speaking about the effects of climate change on the communities of the Pacific and Torres Strait. Lizette Salmon will also be speaking to give a local perspective. Everyone is welcome and supper will be provided.

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/climate-change-the-pacific-and-us/>

Repair Café Albury Wodonga featuring fly screen repair demo

– Saturday 2nd September, 10am – 1pm, Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC)

One of the best things about helping out at the Repair Cafe is the variety of items we see. Big, small, old, new, we see them all! <https://www.facebook.com/repaircafeaw/>

2017 Sustainable Communities National Summit, Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th September, William Angliss Centre, Melbourne

The aim is to consider how our community can respond to the challenges and opportunities of energy issues, climate change and the economic crisis. Link for more info and registration:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-sustainable-communities-national-summit/event-summary-ffc261a377644c65a02c077e755799e0.aspx>

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>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-08/>

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-09/>

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:

- [Your Local Park](#) By Karen Stacey, President of Friends of Willow Park
- [No Case For Coal](#) By Alan Hewett
- [Spiders, wasps and other creatures – friend or foe?](#) By David Thurley, Albury

Plants are cool....

[Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga](#)

Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga is for people interested in growing and saving seed from locally appropriate and useful plants – especially food. Here you'll find information about our activities, events and resources.

[Our Native Garden | Not For Profit Australian Plant Nursery](#)

Our Native Garden is located at Wodonga Waste Transfer Station, 29 Kane Rd. The nursery is open Mondays to Thursdays 10am - 1pm, and Saturdays 10am - 1pm. If you're not already a member, then fill out this [form](#), [send](#) it to us and you're in.

Bhutanese community garden expands to meet growing demand

http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_27-July-17_1421.asp

Tree Day crowns Baranduda's Middle Creek restoration efforts

http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_10-August-17_1426.asp

And some excellent photos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/barandudalandcare/posts/1382399545205935>

Energy news

Solar thermal power plant announced for Port Augusta 'biggest of its kind in the world' - ABC News

Excellent news!

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-14/solar-thermal-power-plant-announcement-for-port-augusta/8804628>

Sick of getting screwed - The Project

Waleed Ali's analysis of our electricity prices:

<https://tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/the-project/extra/season-9/sick-of-getting-screwed>

Energy Insiders Podcast: Turnbull's Kath and Kim moment on energy

When Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he would “eyeball” Australia’s energy retail chiefs, did it bring back memories of the Kath and Kim moments “look at me; look at me?” With Giles Parkinson and David Leitch.

New rules for retailers, but don't sit there waiting for your electricity bill to go down

The government's deal with electricity retailers to provide simple information to customers about their discounts and bills is a welcome step, but doesn't cut to the heart of the power price issue.

Cities Power Partnership

Cities Power Partnership

35 councils have already joined the program, representing 1 in 10 Australians. Congratulations to Albury City for joining up! <http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/partners/albury-city/>

Climate change challenge accepted by group of local councils

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-19/local-councils-join-forces-to-fight-climate-change/8721890?pfmredir=sm>

Waste matters

Redcycle – new drop off points!

Redcycle now has several new drop off points for all soft plastics. These are at Wodonga Birallee Park, Wodonga Plaza, Wodonga High Street, Albury West End Plaza, Lavington, Wangaratta and Myrtleford. The green bins which used to only accept plastic bags now take all soft plastics. Excellent news! <http://www.redcycle.net.au/where-to-redcycle/>

‘Trashed’ – ABC Four Corners

A disturbing insight into the current state of recycling in Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2017/08/07/4711891.htm>

Glass system's not broken - The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4841743/glass-systems-not-broken/?cs=11>

Plastic free July

August is a good time to reflect on the challenge. On our website we have a [list of our favourite blogs, books and videos](#) that explore plastic free living a little further.

Climate updates

Australia faces potentially disastrous consequences of climate change, inquiry told

Military and climate experts, including a former chief of the defence force have warned that Australia faces potential “disastrous consequences” from climate change, including “revolving” natural disasters and the forced migration of tens of millions of people across the region, overwhelming security forces and government.

Climate gloom and doom? Bring it on. But we need stories about taking action, too

An experiment in getting people to care about climate change uses slick videos, charismatic scientists and calls to action.

Australia needs dozens more scientists to monitor climate properly, report says

Australia is not investing enough in climate monitoring capabilities, potentially leaving farmers and other vulnerable communities high and dry when trying to access crucial weather information.

Articles in the Border Mail

Climate future is in our hands

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4840877/climate-future-is-in-our-hands/?cs=11>

Alternative solution to business power pains

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4794702/alternative-solution-to-business-power-pains/?cs=11>

We want trees, please

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4817891/we-want-trees-please/?cs=11>

Students check out nature

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4849383/students-check-out-nature/?cs=11>

Glider projects hits big goals

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4809089/glider-projects-hits-big-goals/?cs=11>

Library aims to sustain

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4806411/library-aims-to-sustain/?cs=11>

Letter to the editor

Here's yet another letter in response to Marty Corboy's opinion piece on coal. Thanks to Maggie Morgan for this one: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4799167/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=52>

Congratulations!

Wooragee Primary School

Wooragee Primary School was awarded Primary School of the year for the Hume region in the Resource Smart School Awards 2017. So far the school has saved \$3121 and stopped 18,171 tonnes of CO2 from entering the atmosphere. Well done!

<https://www.facebook.com/WoorageePrimarySchool/photos/pcb.739991142868977/739990832869008/?type=3&theater>

And now for something completely different...

Six Australian cold weather frogs and their weird mating calls - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-29/the-weird-mating-calls-of-six-australian-cold-weather-frogs/8741284>

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next newsletter is due out on 20th September.

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 10th October at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

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