

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 16.12.15

Cop21

The Paris climate agreement at a glance

On December 12, 2015 in Paris, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change finally came to a landmark agreement. Signed by 196 nations, the [Paris Agreement](#) is the first comprehensive global treaty to combat climate change, and will follow on from the Kyoto Protocol when it ends in 2020. It will enter into force once it is ratified by at least 55 countries, covering at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Here are the key points.

<https://theconversation.com/the-paris-climate-agreement-at-a-glance-50465>

Global deal done: now it's time to get to work

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=eae1d834b59f8926a4770e337&id=b41e1e3453&e=5e5c58e30f>

A message from WATCH's Lauriston Muirhead:

"This is the first real global policy step in the right direction. I am sure it will be a long hard journey with many wrong directions, dead ends and backward steps but it is a start. Who knows where the journey will end and how well, but today is a point of hope. You and people like you all over the world have helped make this agreement possible. The work of making the agreement better and turning the words into actions starts now but let this day give us renewed hope and strength to change the things we can for the better. Many thanks from your fellow climate advocate."

A small Victorian town having a say in Paris

The Strathbogie Voices video 'Little talks to Big' was screened at the COP21 Climate Conference. Kate Auty attended the Paris talks and this is part of her take home message:

"The work being done by Strathbogie Voices, Beneath the Wisteria in Shepparton, the Benalla Sustainable Future Group, the Swanpool Environmental Film Festival and the renewable energy efforts of the community in Seymour and Broadford are simply replicating the work being done all over the world. We are part of the big effort and our work is welcomed."

Check out the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIMpz1RnY0s&feature=youtu.be>

WATCH updates

Climate change and impacts on health

A report by the Lancet was published earlier this year and highlighted some of the 'potentially catastrophic' risks to public health: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-23/climate-change-and-its-impacts-on-public-health/6564860>

Federal Health Minister and Member for Farrer Sussan Ley has to date declined our invitation to meet with medical practitioners to discuss climate change and health. We urge you to contact Ms Ley to express your concerns: <http://sussanley.com/contact/>

Wangaratta standing up for action on climate change

Watch this clip of Cathy McGowan in Parliament congratulating the climate action group from Wangaratta Sustainability Network for their petition:

http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/wangaratta_standing_up_for_action_on_climate_change

Rural groups work on climate solution | The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3503923/rural-groups-work-on-climate-solution/?cs=11>

People's Climate March, 5.30pm, 27th November, Melbourne

Thank you to those people from WATCH, Wangaratta Sustainability Network and Benalla Sustainable Future Group who made the trip to Melbourne to join approximately 60,000 others. Here are photos by Peter Campbell. See if you can spot any familiar faces in the first one:

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOwTKOBTyErM6c1nLkWymmcSIBVrcZb9Msb7OB6X_YAYIFDOvtPbljev1c4giE_wQ/photo/AF1QipNrju1M11QzOgr_CbuLDzENBLuzjmZU8eSntukX?key=UUlaRnZpNnBIOFhZUjZnS_GIPM21vV3h2aINYM1hB

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 us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

Things are slowing down after a hectic November but keep checking the calendar as events are sometimes posted at the last minute:

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-12/>

January <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-01/>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is now being regularly published in Wednesday's Border Mail. As LL is not having a break this year during the Christmas period, Karen Bowley needs extra articles. So please keep those ideas flowing and send your 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com. Thank you again to our regular contributors.

Recent articles

[Eating animals](#) By Sue Brunskill, Teacher, National Environment Centre, and Wooragee resident

[The joy of op shopping](#) By Melissa Kane, Eco-friendly Mum

[Rethink your reuse and recycling](#) By Zara Barlow, age 14, Albury

[Sustainability in China Tour 2015](#) By Dr Ben Habib, Lecturer in International Relations – La Trobe University

Albury Wodonga's Sustainable Living Week

A huge thank you to the team at Wodonga Council and Albury City for doing such a great job organising and supporting community groups during Sustainable Living Week in November. Some highlights included:

RAW Energy Community Conversation

The RAW Energy Conversation at The Cube and follow-up breakfast at Huon Hill were both well attended and many people signed up to be kept informed. A meeting will be held early next year to discuss the next step. For more information on RAW Energy and to join the e-mailing list please contact us at renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com Also have a look at the Facebook page:

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

Pedal-powered cinema

Thanks to Ant Packer for organising three pedal-powered cinema events which were attended by 160 people. This was a really fun way to have conversations about renewable energy to add to those hosted by RAW Energy.

Repair Café

The first Repair Café session, held on Friday 13 November, was a success, with 33 items brought in repair, of which 76% got fixed. Items included clothing, battery-operated appliances, furniture, bicycles and 'other'. The next sessions will be held at the Wodonga Senior Citizen's Centre on the following times and dates:

- Sat 20 Feb 2016, 10.00am-1.00pm
- Fri 18 March 2016, 1.00-4.00pm
- Sat 30 April 2016, 10.00am-1.00pm

Renewable energy

Community renewable energy in our region

The RAW Energy team and members of TRY – Totally Renewable Yackandandah - attended a Community Renewable Energy Project Workshop in Beechworth on 4th December. The workshop was facilitated by four members of the [Coalition for Community Energy](#) - Embark, Moreland Energy Foundation, the Alternative Technology Association and the Community Power Agency.

The excellent ***Guide to Community-owned Renewable Energy for Victorians*** provided a focus for the workshop and can be downloaded here: [Guide to Community-Owned Renewable Energy for Victorians \(PDF 2979.29 KB\)](#) 

Small is beautiful: the community solar projects taking on big energy

What do Sydney's [Young Henrys brewery](#), [Shoalhaven Heads' Bowling and Recreation Club](#), and [Bendigo library](#) have in common? They're all hosts to some of Australia's first solar power projects funded and run by local people in community energy groups. More details here: http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/dec/08/australia-community-solar-energy-project-take-on-the-big-energy-companies?CMP=share_btn_fb

How to Save the World - Foreign Correspondent - ABC

A terrific documentary which demonstrates some wonderful projects and the challenges ahead: <http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/content/2015/s4363030.htm>

And for more information go to this link: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-30/clean-energy-and-the-global-fight-against-climate-change/6966556>

The Power to Change

Take a few minutes to watch this great video about the energy transformation undertaken by a local Yackandandah household. Thanks to Matthew Charles-Jones from TRY and to Helen and Denis for sharing their story. The video was made some time ago and a PV system has recently been installed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvd9F7Cpols&feature=youtu.be>

Conscious business

B Corp article in the Border Mail

Great to read this article about local business with a conscience: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3487581/when-plan-b-is-actually-the-best-option/?cs=11>

TED talk on conscious capitalism

Here is a link to a TED Talk which explains in 15 minutes where Conscious Capitalism, Benefits Corporations, B Labs and B Corp Certification all started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hayf9Ob9fiQ>

Sustainability Victoria

Climate Change Community Conversation

Sustainability Victoria's series of regional Climate Change Community Conversations have been a great opportunity to share local projects and discuss important climate change issues. Summaries from all nine events including Benalla have been posted on the [Climate Change Conversations](#) site. Transcribed notes from the group activities were also posted: <http://participate.sustainability.vic.gov.au/climatechangeconversations/documents/29682/download>

Fossil fuels and divestment updates

'Handouts to big polluters is not how you tackle climate change' – Waleed Aly

We need to stop handing our billions to the fossil fuel industry. Waleed Aly explains why on The Project. He also takes on Andrew Bolt over climate change. Read more and watch the video: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/waleed-aly-takes-on-andrew-bolt-over-climate-change-let-me-nip-this-in-the-bud-20151210-gljuj1.html#ixzz3Tssucbal>

Coast-to-coast, local governments are dumping coal, oil, and gas investments

14 councils nationwide are making the move from coal, oil, and gas investments including Albury City: <http://350.org.au/news/albury-and-armadale-city-councils-divests-from-fossil-fuels/>

Swinburne looking at divesting from fossil fuels

Let's hope more universities follow suit:

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/news/latest-news/2015/12/swinburne-adopts-responsible-investment-charter.php>

Clarke and Dawe have the final word...

The Nativity Play – does it send the wrong message?

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-26/clarke-and-dawe-the-nativity-play/6976940>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 20th January. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 18th January to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful festive season,

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>