

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 21.12.16

WATCH update

Action outside Sussan Ley's office

Approximately 50 Border residents gathered outside Sussan Ley's office on Wednesday 14th December to protest plans by the Federal Government to loan Adani 1 billion dollars for a single use railway line to its Carmichael Mine. Bruce Key representing WATCH spoke about the negative effects the proposed mine would have on global temperatures, the risk to the Great Barrier Reef and associated tourism jobs. Border organiser Tracey Esler said "The emissions from burning this coal will severely accelerate climate change and we will see more bushfires in North-East Victoria, the Riverina and all over our region and country, as a result." Well done to all involved!

Mine's rich vein of protest | Albury Wodonga News Weekly

<http://awnw.com.au/news/2016-12-16/mines-rich-vein-of-protest/>

And some more photos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/photos/pcb.1176431075783532/1176430492450257/?type=3&theater>

Letters in the Border Mail

Many of us get frustrated by the writing of David Everist (On the Wallaby Trail in the Country/Rural section of the Saturday BM). David Thurley has written a great letter about Everist's misinformed views on climate change and the Murray River's environmental flows: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4316617/letters-to-the-editor/>

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 7th February at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

Adani!

India announces plan to step away from coal, casting doubt on approved Queensland Adani mine

India has released a new power plan promoting a dramatic increase in renewable energy and raising doubts about the Indian-owned Adani Group's massive coal mine in Queensland.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-19/india's-plan-to-step-away-from-coal-casts-doubt-on-adani-mine/8131240>

And here's a report on Radio National: <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2016/s4594466.htm>

Here's what we know about Adani and the Carmichael mine project – ABC News

With approval granted for a permanent rail line and a temporary construction camp, Adani's much-touted and often doubted Carmichael coal mine has taken a large step closer to becoming a reality.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-05/what-we-know-about-adani-and-the-carmichael-mine-project/8094244>

Aside from the culture, environment and cost, is Adani a good investment?

Here's a terrific article by Julien Vincent, director of Market Forces and formerly with Greenpeace. He lists the myriad financial and ethical reasons why supporting the Adani mine is such a ridiculous idea. Well worth a read: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/aside-from-the-culture-environment-and-cost-is-adani-a-good-investment-20161213-gta0nq.html>

A taxpayer-funded reef-killing project

Please sign this petition: <https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/great-barrier-reef--3/killing-the-reef-with-taxpayers-money/a-taxpayer-funded-reef-killing-project?t=mxOPUkGw>

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.

Recently we've welcomed new 'group' listings by [Milawa Markwood Oxley Landcare](#) and [Rutherglen Landcare](#) groups.

Things are quietening down during the holiday season but, in November, a record-breaking 81 events were listed on the calendar!

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-12/>

January <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-01/>

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

Thanks Karen!

We would like to acknowledge and thank Karen Retra for all her hard work over the years and for making Ecoportal such a valuable resource.

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. The word limit has been reduced to 380. These 380 word articles will be published every Wednesday in the Border Mail during the festive season. Karen has requested that you keep sending them to her so this popular column is able to continue. Please email them to Karen at kbowley53@gmail.com

More interesting articles this month:

[Building](#) By Andrew Baker, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health [WATCH](#)

[Harmony Is The Answer](#) By Roger Findlay, Gerogery

[Shark Nets: Entangled in the Media's Negative Journalism](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

[Bruce Pascoe: Dark Emu and Aboriginal Agriculture](#) By Janien Ferguson, AlburyCity Learning Outreach Officer

Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

In the news

There's definitely something in the air! Lizette Salmon, coordinator of the Albury-Wodonga Repair Cafe), was interviewed recently by NSW ABC regional radio and ABC Newcastle. And Earth Garden magazine's article about Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga hit newsagents!

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. These sessions are usually held on the first Saturday of the month. There will be a break during the festive season so the next one is on Saturday 4th February, 10am-1pm, at the Sustainable Activity Centre in Wodonga. <http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/>

'Right to Repair' movement pushes back against manufacturers

Fran Kelly interviews the US founder of iFixit about the 'Right to Repair' movement:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/'right-to-repair'-movement-pushes-back-against-manufacturers/8077744>

Helping your possessions stand the test of time with Repair Cafés

Big shout out to Michelle Fisher at Inner West Melbourne Repair Cafe for alerting us to this terrific article. It's not just about Repair Cafes but many exciting complimentary services, like Really Really Free Markets and Libraries of Things. Read all about it here: <http://www.permablitz.net/articles/helping-possession-stand-test-time-repair-cafes/>

Parklands Albury Wodonga

Respect. Engage. Connect: Parklands partnership acknowledged

Excellent news about this remarkable organisation: http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_24-November-16_1099.asp

Video clip

Interesting video showing what PAW does, including the wonderful Bhutanese market garden. Well worth watching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg6Fb0o4luo>

Local food and gardens

Mountains to Murray Local Produce Guide - North East Local Produce Guide

A wonderful resource: <http://www.localproduceguide.com.au/>

Albury-Wodonga sees increased demand for emergency food

News from Birallee Park Neighbourhood House:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4316910/eating-comes-last-on-the-list/?cs=11>

A town connected by good food and reading

A great story from Beechworth: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4337973/a-town-connected-by-good-food-and-reading/>

Our Native Garden Nursery - seeds on your land

Our Native Garden Nursery has a permit to collect seed on some public land. We are keen to have seed of all sorts of daisies, grasses, lilies, wattles, Bursaria, peas, Burgan. We can send you great info on when and how to collect seeds of all sorts – send us an email. ongnursery@gmail.com or call Jill 0419 732 390. Our Native Garden is a community owned, not-for-profit, Registered Charity, volunteer run, indigenous plant nursery at the Wodonga Waste Transfer Station, 29 Kane Rd, Wodonga. The nursery is open Mondays to Thursdays 9am - 1pm, Fridays 9am -11am and Sundays 10.30am - 1.30pm.

Recent articles in the Border Mail

Closure will be felt in pockets

Bobbi McKibbin from WATCH and RAW (Renewable Albury Wodonga) was interviewed about the closure of Hazelwood and the anticipated effects on power prices:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4355415/closure-will-be-felt-in-pockets/?cs=11>

Families hurt again by a clear lack of vision

Further to the article featuring Bobbi and RAW's response to the anticipated hike in electricity prices with the closure of Hazelwood, here is an editorial which is critical of Australia's 'coal addiction' referring to it as a 'dirty relic': <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4356760/families-hurt-again-by-a-clear-lack-of-vision/>

Enough: we all must face the facts on our climate

Dean McNulty is a professional firefighter and director of the Australian Firefighters Climate Alliance:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4317270/enough-we-all-must-face-the-facts-on-our-climate/>

We have to realise that life may never be the same

Vivien Thomson is a rural firefighter with 29 years' experience and runs a mixed farm in NSW.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4344092/we-have-to-realise-that-life-may-never-be-the-same/?cs=14>

Farmers and climate change

Farmer survey reveals concern and shifting attitudes on climate change

The survey Lizette Salmon, Bruce Key and others helped with at the Henty Field Days was published on the Weatherzone website: <http://www.weatherzone.com.au/news/farmer-survey-reveals-concern-shifting-attitudes-on-climate-change/525447>

NFF modernises climate change thinking

Some wise words from Fiona Simson, NFF President:

<http://www.farmonline.com.au/story/4325760/nff-modernises-climate-change-thinking/>

Farmers for Climate Action

<http://www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au>

Reducing carbon emissions

Emissions intensity scheme an Australian 'innovation'- RN Breakfast

Listen to this clear description of an emissions intensity scheme by economist Danny Price. This was what Josh Frydenberg mentioned on ABC RN and which sent Cory Bernardi into paroxysms of rage!

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/emissions-intensity-scheme-an-australian-innovation/8095132>

Australia won't meet Paris climate change targets, urgent policy needed on emission reduction: Finkel report

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-09/australias-energy-policy-cant-meet-current-targets/8105386>

Electricity from coal should be phased out in Australia – Senate report

Coal-fired power stations should be closed in an orderly fashion to ensure energy supply is not disrupted.

Seems pretty obvious to us! https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/28/electricity-from-coal-should-be-phased-out-within-10-years-senate-report?CMP=share_btn_tw

Wild Pollinators

Wild Pollinator Count news: Spring 2016 Results

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the November 2016 Wild Pollinator Count! Over 350 observations were submitted from 111 different locations, ranging from Kanimbla in North Queensland, Pelverata in Tasmania, all the way to City Beach in Western Australia. And we're still waiting for some observations from the Northern Territory. <http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dccd92ddc6a82bac2d32f2d66&id=542ee8cca1&e=4e8e4c8c6d>

Save the bees! Wait, was that a bee?

Terrific talk on native bees. From the US but messages ring true in Australia too. 8 minutes in length.

Well worth a watch! Thanks to Karen Retra for alerting us to this:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MVDXD3oyMJg&feature=share>

Quote of the month

Barack Obama *"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."* President Obama, you will be missed.

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter during 2016. The next one will be out on Wednesday 25th January 2017.

We would like to thank you for your support during the year and wish you a peaceful and joyous festive season.

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies

WATCH website Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

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