

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.1.16

WATCH updates

A climate of concern

A big thankyou to WATCH members for participating in interviews resulting in this article in the Border Mail: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3651999/a-climate-of-concern/?cs=11>

And here is the original media release:

<http://watch.id.au/2016/01/06/media-release-2015-australias-5th-hottest-year-on-record/>

Did you notice any impacts from the recent heatwave?

Between 9-13 January we had a run of hot weather, with five consecutive days greater than 35 degrees Celsius. WATCH is keen to document the impacts this heat had on the local area. We've heard that chickens laid fewer eggs, leaves got scorched, fruit dropped, thrips increased and a double-glazed window cracked. What impacts on plants, animals, humans or infrastructure did you notice? We'd really appreciate your observations for our climate impacts database, so please get in touch, either via our online survey (<http://goo.gl/forms/0rBsXyghq8>) or by emailing lizette@salmonfamily.id.au.

WATCH meetings

WATCH meets every second month in central Albury. If you want to do something about climate change, you can. 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 9th February at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

WATCH website <http://watch.id.au>

Climate news

Climate change and the Victorian bushfires: this is not a coincidence

An excellent article by Cam Klose prompted by the recent fires in our region:
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/21/climate-change-and-the-victorian-bushfires-this-is-not-a-coincidence>

2015 - Australia's climate in review, Bureau of Meteorology

Australia recorded its fifth warmest year on record in 2015, with several significant heatwaves in autumn, spring, and early summer. Find out more in our Annual Climate Statement 2015: <http://bom.is/81440d> and watch a short video here:
<https://www.facebook.com/bureauofmeteorology/videos/1034709556592944/?fref=fb>

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:
www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au

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

February <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-02/>

Selected events

Plant Propagation Workshop, Sunday January 31, 10am – 12pm

Learn about growing seed and cuttings from local trees, shrubs and ground covers. Potting mixes, containers, methods and aftercare will also be covered. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/plant-propagation-workshop/>

Repair Café Session 2, Saturday 20th February, 10am – 1pm

The first Repair Café session, held on Friday 13 November, was a success, with 33 items brought in repair, of which 76% got fixed. The next session will be held at the Wodonga Senior Citizen's Centre on Saturday 20 February, 10.00am-1.00pm <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-2/>

Two more sessions will be held on Friday 18 March, 1.00-4.00pm and Saturday 30 April, 10.00am-1.00pm

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. These articles are a way of inspiring others to have a positive impact on our environment. If you know of someone who would like to contribute or who inspires others by their own example of living lightly, then please encourage them to send a 400 word article to Karen Bowley at kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles

[Superfoods - food for thought?](#) by Thea McCarthy, Wangaratta

[How not to waste food](#) by Karen Bowley, Wooragee Landcare and WATCH

[No longer plenty of fish in the sea](#) by Francesca Ciantar

[Who is a grinch?](#) by Claire Coulson

Petitions

Message from Plastic Bag Free Victoria

Plastic Bag Free Victoria is on a mission to get limited use plastic bags banned in Victoria. In order to raise the issue with the state government, we have to present a petition and we need 10,000 signatures. Would you or someone you know, be interested in helping us gather signatures in your area? Ideas of places to raise signatures include leaving a petition at cafes, or other businesses, also at markets or festivals. If you would like to know more please email Erin at info@plasticbagfreevictoria.org or give her a call on 0476 613 338.

Boomerang Bags - Sew Sustainable

Fascinating website about a community working towards a plastic bag free environment: <http://boomerangbags.org/>

News from Parklands Albury Wodonga

Getting the Nestbox Know-how

Parklands Albury Wodonga and the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network invite people to get involved with a new 'Friends of the Nestboxes' team. If you, your school or your workplace would

like to join the team please contact Wodonga Urban Landcare Network facilitator Anne Stelling at anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au or Anthea Packer at info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

Community Market Garden - volunteers needed

Parklands Albury Wodonga is looking for volunteers for their Community Market Garden on Gateway Island. The site has been transformed over the last few months from cow paddock to serious garden. If you would like to be involved, the garden is open and buzzing every morning Monday to Sunday. We encourage volunteers to get involved and help make this garden a place of cross cultural conversations and shared learning. Contact info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au or phone (02) 6023 6714.

Cruise along the upgraded rail trail to Huon Reserve, Saturday 20th February

Help us celebrate the upgrade of the surface of the High Country Rail Trail from Ludlow's Reserve to Huon Reserve and the completion of the Kiewa River boardwalk. Join a twilight ride ending with a picnic at Ludlow's Reserve. Bookings essential so for details and registration please go to: <http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au/>

Renewable energy

Victorian Government New Energy Jobs Fund

The Minister for Energy and Resources, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, has launched the first round of the Victorian Government's \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund with applications closing on 16 March 2016. **There is a workshop on Thursday, 4 February, 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Baarmutha Function Centre, Balaclava Road, Beechworth.** The workshop will provide an overview of the New Energy Jobs Fund and is also an opportunity to ask questions about the application process. Anyone interested on coming along can register at: <https://newenergyjobsfund.eventbrite.com.au>

TRY – Totally Renewable Yackandandah

In 2015 Totally Renewable Yackandandah received grant funds from Charles Sturt University to complete a research project investigating community attitudes toward a 100% renewable energy goal in Yackandandah. The report by Leah Ginnivan and Tom Stayer has now been published on the TRY website <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/watts-happening/news/>

Developer of \$20 million Australian-first solar thermal pilot plant predicts sunny future under Turnbull

Let's hope so!

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-23/developer-of-australian-first-solar-thermal-pilot-plant/7051578>

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>

Other local news

News from Birallee Park Neighbourhood House

Don't waste any excess vegies from your gardens. Any surplus fresh produce can be left with us when our volunteers continue making delicious meals ready for distribution to those in need

locally. Also, keep an ear out for more info on Birallee's upcoming Food Swap commencing in February. Contact Sue Slater at birhouse@bigpond.net.au or (02) 6059 2590.

Our Native Garden Nursery

A selection of native plants is now on sale at the nursery located next door to the Wodonga Waste Transfer Station, 29 Kane Rd, Wodonga. Plants are also available at the Re-use shop - Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm and Sundays from 10am to 2pm.

Two 'new' blue banded bee species in our area!

<http://karenretra.com/home/two-new-blue-banded-bee-species-in-our-area.html>

Food for thought

Optimism is the new denialism in a warming Malcolm Turnbull world

<https://newmatilda.com/2015/12/15/optimism-is-the-new-denialism-in-a-warming-malcolm-turnbull-world/>

The zillion year town - Ockham's Razor - ABC Radio National

Our cities and suburbs are unsustainable - little is reused and only a modest proportion is recycled. Here is one person's vision of how things could be different:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/the-zillion-dollar-city/6991260>

Scientists believe Earth is now in the Anthropocene era - RN Breakfast

Interesting interview with Will Steffan:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/scientists-believe-earth-is-now-in-the/7075730>

Greenpeace Australia Pacific

Same old story...?

<https://www.facebook.com/greenpeaceaustraliapacific/photos/a.112735037970.97765.9480502970/10154342837627971/?type=3&fref=nf>

A heartwarming story...

Bhutanese refugee community thriving in regional Australia

They were expelled from their home country and left to languish in refugee camps. But after years in limbo, more than 1000 Bhutanese refugees have found a home in regional Australia.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/12/17/bhutanese-refugee-community-thriving-regional-australia>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 17th February. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 15th February to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

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>