

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 22.7.15

WATCH in the Border Mail

Here's a great story featuring WATCH in the BM where Lauriston Muirhead criticises the federal government for its "appalling" attitude to renewable energy. Thanks to Lauriston for making the time to comment on our behalf: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3222226/fossil-focus-slammed/?cs=53>

Health and climate change

Climate change presents 'potentially catastrophic' risks to public health, Lancet Commission study finds - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-23/climate-change-and-its-impacts-on-public-health/6564860>

Thanks to Dr Rosie Saxton for speaking up and featuring in this article in the Border Mail:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3169889/malaria-dengue-on-their-way-with-climate-change/?cs=11>

'No Time For Games: Children's Health and Climate Change' - Doctors for the Environment Australia

This timely report demonstrates extreme weather events and increasing temperatures are already causing childhood illness in households throughout Australia:

http://dea.org.au/images/general/Children_and_climate_change_report:_No_Time_for_Games_web.pdf

Strathbogie Voices 2015 Euroa Environmental Seminar Series

Climate Change, Health and Rural Communities - Euroa, Sat 25.7.15

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/climate-change-health-and-rural-communities-tickets-15195328637?ref=ebtn>

Have your say...

A message from Environment Victoria

At the end of this year, representatives from the world's nations will meet in Paris to negotiate a new international agreement on climate change. The federal Coalition is currently debating what emissions reduction target Australia will take to that meeting. Please send a letter to key Coalition MPs in Victoria and ask them to argue for strong pollution reduction targets in the party

room. <https://environmentvictoria.good.do/victoria2020/tellfederalcoalitionmpsinvictoriathatyouwantstrongemissionstargets/>

Public transport in regional Victoria

The community is invited to get involved and help shape the future of public transport in regional Victoria. You can contribute your ideas until 11 September by getting online, attending a community workshop in your area or filling out a survey at your local V/Line station. Community workshops will take place on Monday 10 August in Benalla, Tuesday 11 August in Wangaratta and Wednesday 12 August in Wodonga. All details are at the website: www.ptv.vic.gov.au/getinvolved.

Victorian Feed-In Tariff

This time next year you could be getting as little as 5 cents per KWH for the solar energy you export to the grid. Sign this petition and ask Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio to stop the proposed 20 per cent cut to Victorian feed-in tariffs: <http://www.solarcitizens.org.au/vicfit>

Are you a handy person?

Do you have a knack for fixing things like woodwork, bikes, clothing or electrical appliances? Would you enjoy showing others how to do so? If you answered 'yes' to both questions, we'd really appreciate your help at our Repair Café. Repair Cafés are free meeting places for people to learn the art of repair from experts or 'hobbyists'. Visitors bring in a broken household item and are shown how to fix it. It's about repairing and restoring items, rejecting throw-away society and fostering a culture of creativity, innovation, repair and re-use. There are hundreds of Repair Cafés in The Netherlands but only two in Australia. We're keen to give it a go in Albury-Wodonga and are planning four trial sessions between November 2015 and May 2016. If you're interested in lending a hand or finding out more, please get in touch with Lizette Salmon – lizette@salmonfamily.id.au or (02) 60 59 4185.

Update on Living Lightly

As of last week, **Living Lightly** will be published in Wednesday's Border Mail. Wednesday's paper is the next biggest circulating after Saturday's issue. It is great news that Living Lightly will continue to be published. However, Karen Bowley is still in need of articles so please send yours to kbowley53@gmail.com. Thank you again to our regular contributors.

Some recent articles

<http://ecoportal.net.au/lerps/> By Maureen Cooper, Wooragee Landcare

<http://ecoportal.net.au/producing-our-own-food/> By Dave Cromarty, retired forester and Landcare Facilitator

<http://ecoportal.net.au/for-the-love-of-trees/> By Jill Keith, Beechworth

<http://ecoportal.net.au/allotments/> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

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. This month we welcome new listings for:

Tiny Houses Albury Wodonga <http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/tiny-houses-albury-wodonga/>

Halve Waste <http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/halve-waste/>

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage <http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/nsw-office-of-environment-and-heritage/>

What's on in July and August

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-07/>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-08/>

Tree planting opportunities

Tree day branches out - The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3209296/tree-day-branches-out/?cs=28>

National Tree Day, Sunday July 26 – several events:

Friends of Willow Park, Wodonga <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/celebrating-trees/>

Friends of Padman Park, Albury <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/friends-of-padman-park/>

Albury City <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/alburycity-planet-ark-national-tree-planting-day/>

Baranduda Landcare

<https://www.facebook.com/barandudalandcare/photos/a.526481124131119.1073741831.506884972757401/796497590462803/?type=1&theater>

Wangaratta <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/national-tree-day-wangaratta/>

Beechworth <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/national-tree-day-beechworth/>

Winton Wetlands Community Planting Day, 25th July

<http://www.wintonwetlands.org.au/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=29341>

Corry's Bushland Tree Planting Day, 9th August

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/tree-planting-day/>

Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekends - various

<http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/index.php>

Biodiversity

The Art of Nestboxes

This North East CMA video looks at the benefits of nest boxes to native wildlife and as an engagement and educational tool for community groups in North East Victoria. With Glen Johnson and Ray Thomas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNgPMn50VzY&feature=youtu.be>

Swamps Rivers and Ranges (SRR) Blueprint

The initial Blueprint of a broad scale landscape restoration project covering a large area within the north east of Victoria was launched on July 3rd. Swamps Rivers & Ranges (SRR) is a community driven Landscape Restoration Project funded by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

<http://swampsriversandranges.org/2015/07/03/blueprint-launched-by-cathy-mc-gowan-in-wangaratta/>

A burning question – ABC RN Background Briefing

Burning native timber for renewable energy could prop up an ailing native forest industry, but the forests could earn millions in carbon credits if they're not logged. Gregg Borschmann investigates:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/a-burning-question/6616386>

Climate updates

Dutch court orders government to slash greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25 per cent by 2020

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-24/dutch-court-orders-state-slash-greenhouse-emissions/6571328>

ACB Lateline interview with Marjan Minnesma, Director of Urgenda

Marjan Minnesma led a legal challenge against the Dutch Government, saying they weren't taking enough action against climate change. Emma Alberici speaks with Marjan about the ways citizens can hold governments accountable for policy decisions on climate change.

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4276153.htm>

Young farmers rewrite NSW Farmers climate change policy - ABC Rural

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-16/nsw-young-farmers-put-climate-change-on-agenda/6624996>

'The climate one year on: exit carbon tax, enter brown coal'

Greg Oates' letter, a brief summary of an Age article, was published in the BM on July 9th but there was no link. Here is the original article:

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/a-lump-of-coal-for-a-new-era-power-emissions-rise-as-climate-policy-changes-20150704-gi5318>

Clean energy

Federal Government Wants Big Solar? Here's a project

<http://www.energymatters.com.au/renewable-news/port-augusta-solar-em4925/>

Abbott's wonky meddling in CEFC

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/abbotts-wonky-meddling-in-cefc-20150713-gjavh4.html>

'Repower Shoalhaven' - renewable energy investment scheme funded by locals

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/repower-shoalhaven-renewable-energy-investment-scheme-funded-by-locals-20150629-ghwmmk.html>

Fossil fuels

NSW farmers 'gutted' as open-cut Liverpool Plains mine gets approval - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-09/farmers-had-their-chance-to-stop-shenhua-project-says-miner/6606642>

Episcopal church votes to divest from fossil fuels: 'This is a moral issue'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/03/episcopal-church-fossil-fuel-divestment>

'Don't be Fossil Fooled – It's Time to Say Goodbye' - Paul Gilding

<http://paulgilding.com/2015/07/13/dont-be-fossil-fooled/>

Ending on a lighter note....

Write Around the Murray Festival, Albury, 9 –13 September 2015

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

Here is something to look forward to! Tim Flannery will discuss his forthcoming book, Atmosphere of Hope: Searching for Solutions to the Climate Crisis and be part of a panel discussion on climate change and fiction with novelists James Bradley and Jane Rawson. James Bradley's novel Clade has been called the first great novel of climate change. Full details will become available when the program is launched on 5 August.

The Battle for Bulga – ABC TV

The Weekly's Tom Gleeson sorts out the Battle for Bulga as townsfolk try and fight off a Rio Tinto mining expansion: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=PKup0tMy1LU&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 19 August. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 17 August 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>