

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.7.16

WATCH updates

Climate Emergency Declaration petition

Twenty-four eminent people wrote an open letter to the government calling for the declaration of a climate emergency. The letter was signed by business leaders, health professionals, scientists and elder statespersons from across the political spectrum. Below is the final copy of the half page advertisement that appeared in the Age newspaper on Thursday 23 June. Note their list of eminent persons and that WATCH is one of the supporting organisations: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-23/business-leaders-join-open-letter-calling-for-climate-policy/7534620>

Signatory to letter

[Market Forces](#) are gearing up to resume campaigning to change the behaviour of banks when it comes to fossil fuels. Consequently WATCH added a signature to their letter to the big four banks.

Letters to the editor - The Border Mail

An excellent letter from David Thurley:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4019898/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

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 9th August at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

Election follow up

Conservation group says Energy and Environment portfolio can be a 'win-win'

Malcolm Turnbull has rearranged a number of portfolios, including combining Energy and the Environment into one Ministry for Josh Frydenberg. Some green groups are worried, but the Australian Conservation Foundation says it's not a bad idea if it prompts the Government to do more to promote renewable energy. <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2016/s4503028.htm>

And here's an interesting interview with the Climate Institute's CEO John Connor:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/energy-and-environment-portfolios/7640428>

Indi MP Cathy McGowan reiterates election policy statement on renewable energy

This is from an article in the Border Mail: *'Ms McGowan's promises were to create more community advisory groups. She told The Border Mail she would replicate the idea of Totally Renewable Yackandandah – to become reliant on only renewable energy by 2022 – across the electorate. After a pilot in Indi, she would pitch the idea to be rolled out nationally.'* Seems like a great idea!

The climate change letter most candidates didn't answer

Dr Fiona Stanley sought answers before the election, with mixed results:

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-letter-most-candidates-wont-answer-20160628-gptmfs.html>

Plastic Free July

Thanks to those of you who responded to our call for participants last month. There are ten of us who have been trying to avoid single use plastics during the month of July. And hopefully for longer than that. To find out more visit <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>.

Articles in the local papers

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4011511/a-better-life-without-plastic/?cs=11>

<http://awnw.com.au/news/2016-07-11/july-plastic-taboo-plea/>

Ban single use plastic bags – Greenpeace Australia

If we get rid of single-use plastic bags in Victoria we can help to reduce plastic bag waste by an estimated 1 billion a year. [Sign the petition now and let's show Minister D'Ambrosio the groundswell of community support for a ban on plastic bags!](#)

We must choose between the devil and the deep blue sea

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/nina-springle/we-must-choose-between-the-devil-and-the-deep-blue-sea/?ncid=edlinkauhpmg00000001>

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. We welcome two new groups, the [Bhutanese Community Farm](#) and [Greta Valley Landcare group](#). Follow us on Facebook:

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

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-07/>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-08/>

Selected events

Movie night – *A simpler way: crisis as opportunity*, Tuesday 26th July, 7pm, Sustainable Living Centre, Gateway Island, Wodonga

Get your **free** ticket here: <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/event/movie-night/>

Many thanks to the [Simplicity Collective](#) for providing this opportunity and Claire at the [Sustainable Activity Centre](#) for hosting.

Big Ideas series – ‘Agro-ecology for small local growers’, Wednesday 27th July, 6pm-8pm, Albury Library Museum

Rob Fenton of Riverina TAFE National Environment Centre shares his knowledge as a specialist in ecological organic food production in our landscape. RSVP: awce@vrb.org.au or 0429 117 949

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/big-ideas-series-talk-3/>

Launch of ‘The Commons’ Thursday 28th July, 6pm, 1076 Mate St, North Albury

Please join us to celebrate the opening of The Commons – a community action centre provided by the Goodlife Community Co-op. The Commons & Co-op are open to any residents who want to work together to help each other (especially the disadvantaged), animals and the environment. Hear about the journey so far and hopes for the future. You can learn more here: <http://goodlifecoop.wix.com/home>.

Permaculture conversation with Lou Bull, Saturday 30th July, 10am – 12pm, Beechworth Food Co-op

Lou is a wonderfully knowledgeable permaculture expert and the creator of the most beautiful perennial garden calendar which will be on sale at the co-op. Details here:

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/a-day-of-permaculture-conversation/>

Solar Power for Tiny Houses Saturday 30th July 30, 1 pm - 4 pm, Sustainable Activity Centre

Solar Power for Tiny Houses will introduce you to solar energy from the ground up.

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/solar-power-for-tiny-houses/>

National Tree Day planting opportunities

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network, 23rd July, 9.30am – 11.30am

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/planting-morning-2/>

Thurgoona Community Tree Planting Day, 31st July, 10am – 1pm

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

Baranduda Landcare’s 17th Annual Community Tree Day, 31st July, 9.30am – 12.45pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/baranduda-landcares-17th-annual-community-tree-day/>

Albury City and Splitters Creek Landcare group, 31st July, 9am – 1pm

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

Friends of Willow Park, 31st July, 10am – 1pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/community-gardening-friends-of-willow-park-2-2/>

Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability Tree Day, 31st July, 10am – 12 noon
<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/national-tree-day-beechworth-urban-landcare-and-sustainability-group/>

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network, 13th August, 9.30am – 11.30am
<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/planting-morning/>

National Tree Day for Workplaces, 14th August, 10am – 12 pm
<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/national-tree-day-for-workplaces-2/>

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. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded to Karen Bowley's plea for more articles but please keep them coming! Please send them to: kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles

[Autumn and winter](#) By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

[The Value of the Predator](#) By Alan Hewett, Trust for Nature Covenanter

[Maintaining garden tools](#) By Wolfgang Huber, Repair Café Albury-Wodonga member

[Mums group encourages sustainability](#) By Cath Newell, Consultant to Sustainability Victoria

Sustainable living

Sustainable Activity Centre SAC, Gateway Village, Wodonga

If it's good for the planet and the world we live in, the SAC will promote it and get the community actively involved. 'Like' us on [Facebook](#) to keep up with the latest news and events. Please check out the website and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter: <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/>

The SAC is based at the former Tourist Information Centre, between La Maison and GIGS (Gateway Island Gallery Space).

Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga - now repairing books too

<http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/>

Repair Café Albury-Wodonga is a **free** meeting place to bring along broken household items such as bikes, furniture, clothing and battery-operated appliances and learn how to fix them with the help of experienced, volunteer repairers. From August we will also repair books that are falling apart or shedding pages. And yes, you can still bring along small, blunt garden tools like secateurs and we'll show you how to service and sharpen them.

When: First Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm

Where: Sustainable Activity Centre

Recent effects of climate pollution

'Shocking images' reveal death of 10,000 hectares of mangroves across Northern Australia - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-10/unprecedented-10000-hectares-of-mangroves-die/7552968?WT.tsrc=Facebook>

Forests of the sea in Western Australia slashed by marine heatwave

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-08/kelp-forests-of-the-sea-in-wa-slashed-by-marine-heatwave/7577934>

Take action

Solar Citizens - Australians want 100% renewables. Let's get on with it.

Here's what Malcolm Turnbull he had to say in 2010 at the launch of Beyond Zero Emissions' Stationary Energy Plan: "*We can move, as we must move if we are to effectively combat climate change, to a situation where all or almost all of our energy comes from zero or very near zero emission sources.*" [Watch the video and share on Facebook and Twitter](#) to show Prime Minister Turnbull that Australians want a renewable-powered future.

Environment Victoria survey

What issues do you care about, and how do you think we should work? Please take a few minutes to [fill out our supporter survey and tell us what you think are the most important issues >>](#)

Market Forces - will it be coal or renewables? Time the banks spoke up.

The banks like to blame a poor policy environment for their lack of support for renewables. It's time to test their credibility on an issue they need to lead on themselves.

[Here's some coverage of our latest research into renewable energy lending from the big banks.](#)

Now let's make sure the banks [hear our voices](#)

Photos which celebrate the natural world

Mountain Range to Wetlands Photographic Competition

To celebrate the beauty of North East Victoria, Wooragee Landcare would like to invite adults, primary and secondary students to participate in a photographic competition. Entries close 15 August 2016. All details here: <http://ecportal.net.au/event/mountain-range-to-wetlands-photographic-competition-2016-jul/>

Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP

Some wonderful photos of fungi here:

<http://friendsofchiltern.org.au/index.php/news/newsletters/399-newsletter-252-july-2016>

Environmental Photographer of the Year 2016: Winners and shortlisted images

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/environmental-photographer-year-2016-winners-shortlisted-images-1567912>

An inspirational performance...

Greenpeace holds a performance with pianist Ludovico Einaudi on the Arctic Ocean

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dHpHxA-9CVM>

And a quote for the month

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." From the wonderful [Jane Goodall](#)

If you have a favourite quote which might be suitable for the newsletter then please send it to

jdjbdavies@gmail.com

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 24th August.

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies

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

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

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