

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 19.7.17

WATCH news

Happy 10th Birthday WATCH!

Our very first meeting was held a decade ago on 21st June 2007. Read this *Living Lightly* article by Lizette Salmon which summarises what has happened during the past ten years: Warmest wishes to all who have been on the journey and keep hanging in there! <http://ecportal.net.au/watch-ten-year-anniversary/>.

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 8th August at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

Website

Please check our website: www.watch.id.au And follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

Letters in the Border Mail

An opinion piece from Marty Corboy received some well-deserved criticism from WATCH members and, as a result, several letters were published. Scroll down to the second letter for the first three.

Phil Haines: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4765813/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Graham Parton: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4764814/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Joy Grinham: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4768073/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=52>

Matthew Charles-Jones: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4777759/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Thanks to you all. And for those of you who wish to read Mr Corboy's article, well here it is!

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4760310/we-would-be-foolish-to-leave-coal-behind/>

Adani!

StopAdani Albury Wodonga – SAAW

Surveys have been conducted recently in Albury and Wodonga including outside MPs offices. 487 surveys have been conducted so far with the following results:

- 58% have heard of the Adani Carmichael mine and awareness was highest in Beechworth.
- Of those who have heard of it, 87% were opposed to the loan
- 79% were opposed to the mine
- 94% agreed it's time to transition to renewables.

The current plan is to reach a target of 500 people. Here's a link to SAAW's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/> Email Jenni Huber for more information and for details of the next meeting: jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com.

Adani's Carmichael coal mine has slow 'official start' planned, leaked document shows

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-10/adani-queensland-coal-mine-plan-raises-doubts-on-viability/8691020>

Market Forces Adani list

Adani's plan to build a mega coal mine in the Galilee Basin is enormous, and they can't do it alone. Without help from banks, insurers, contractors, advisers and partners the entire project would fall over. That's why we've pulled together [The Adani List](#) - a guide to every company with a history of doing business with Adani or at risk of getting involved in their mega mine. [Check it out: we've made it easy to tell every company on the list to back away from Adani.](#)

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 Ecoportal on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au>

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-07/>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-08/>

Selected events

2017 Tree Day

Thursday July 27, 11am - 1pm, Clyde Cameron Reserve Group, Wodonga

This is an open event with tree planting along the Murray Valley Hospital rear fence and a barbecue lunch provided by the Wodonga Council at 1pm.

National Tree Day by Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability

Sunday July 30th, 10am - 12pm, 100m along Everton rail trail from Mellish St toward Everton

Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability (BULS) supported by the Indigo Shire and Beechworth Honey plan a tree planting event which includes an avenue of native eucalypts and restoration of a permanent wetland site. Please be involved in your local community. www.buls.org.au

<http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10016354>

Installing Nestboxes for Squirrel Gliders Field Day

Monday July 24th, 9:30am - 11:30 am @ The SAC

Spotlighting Night Walk

Monday July 24th, 7pm - 9pm @ Killara

Spotlighting Night Walk

Wednesday July 26th, 7pm - 9pm @ Gateway Island

Workshop: Sloane's Froglet Community Monitoring Program

Friday July 28th, 6pm - 8:30 pm @ Thurgoona Country Club Resort

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. These 380 word articles are published every Wednesday in the Border Mail. Karen Bowley has requested that you keep sending her your articles so this popular column is able to continue. Please email them to kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles:

[A Plastic Ocean – starts here in our towns](#) By Nicki Munro, [Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability](#)

[Plastic Free July: More Ideas](#) By Ann Brain, Wangaratta Sustainability Network

[Repair Cafe's 1,000th item](#) By Lizette Salmon, Coordinator Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

[Plastic Free July](#) By Wendy Baker, Benalla Sustainable Future Group

Support our local groups

WULN - Wodonga Urban Landcare Network

The latest Bulletin and all previous Bulletins are on our website at <http://wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au/wuln-bulletins/>

You may also be interested to read about the fantastic projects we have on the go for 2017 at <http://wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au/wuln-projects/> All enquiries welcome.

Regent Honeyeater Project

The Regent Honeyeater Project team has plenty of planting sites available in and around Lurg to help improve ecosystems and benefit endangered wildlife. Planting weekends - 12-13 August, 26-27 August, 9-10 September, 23-24 September, and 7-8 October. Accommodation can be supplied at the Scouts and Guides halls in Benalla in the

form of mattresses, with an evening meal on Saturday and onsite lunch on Sunday. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Andie Guerin at andie@regenthoneyeater.org.au

Parklands Albury Wodonga

This year we celebrate 20 years since the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation handed the management of a swathe of environmental reserves around the twin cities back to the community.

Friends of Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park work in consultation with its members, the broader community, the City of Wodonga and relevant State Government Departments. Lots of opportunities for hands-on activities.

Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP

The Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park is more than 25 years old and is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Park.

Climate updates

Australia, deep in climate change's 'disaster alley', shirks its moral responsibility

A government's first responsibility is to safeguard the people and their future well-being. The ability to do this is threatened by human-induced climate change, the accelerating effects of which are driving political instability and conflict globally. An excellent article by Ian Dunlop.

FOI documents confirm government holding almost one year's worth of pollution data

The federal government has been keeping almost a year's worth of pollution data secret, despite it being scheduled for release in May, documents obtained under freedom of information laws reveal.

G20 leaders' statement on climate change highlights rift with US

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/08/g20-climate-change-leaders-statement-paris-agreement?CMP=soc_567

Coal!

Coral, coal and climate change

Anna Krien on the dysfunctional politics of climate change policy, the contested economics of coal mining, and the 'energy wars'. An excellent interview with Paul Barclay on RN Big Ideas.

Food trumps coal as NSW refunds Shenhua \$262m for Liverpool Plains licence

The NSW government will hand back more than \$250 million to a Chinese mining giant to scale back a coal mining exploration licence on the Liverpool Plains. And here's an interview with Tony Windsor:

http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2017/07/rnd_20170712_1815.mp3

Al Gore: Australian government subsidising coal power would be 'crazy'

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jul/12/al-gore-australian-government-subsidising-coal-power-would-be-crazy>

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull labels coal opponents 'delusional'

I guess that would include Al Gore.....

<http://www.theage.com.au/nsw/prime-minister-malcolm-turnbull-labels-coal-opponents-delusional-20170715-gxbyjw.html>

Energy news

Energy Visions Podcast

Labor climate spokesman Mark Butler has just released a new book, *Climate Wars*, that traces the history of Australia's climate and energy policies over the past 10 years, and the way ahead.

Butler looks at how the opportunity to create a carbon scheme under former prime minister Kevin Rudd came and went, and how a carbon price that was eventually agreed and put in place for two years was then trashed by the Abbott government. A terrific interview with Giles Parkinson.

Coalition to adopt 49 of 50 Finkel energy suggestions but undecided on clean energy target

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/07/12/coalition-adopt-49-50-finkel-energy-suggestions-undecided-clean-energy-target>

Articles in the Border Mail

Plantings give peas a chance

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4741380/plantings-give-peas-a-chance/?cs=11>

Squirrel glider project breaks ground

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4778049/squirrel-glider-project-breaks-ground/>

Rare bird returns home after record trip

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4780456/rare-bird-returns-home-after-record-trip/?cs=11>

Solar lessons could lead to bigger project

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4764183/solar-lessons-could-lead-to-bigger-project/>

Politicians protecting coal industry at our expense

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4736266/politicians-protecting-coal-industry-at-our-expense/>

At last!

Woolworths and Coles to phase out single-use plastic bags

The announcement affects stores only in states that have not passed legislation banning single-use bags: New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. Woolworths Group stores in South Australia, Northern Territory, ACT and Tasmania have already stopped offering the bags in-line with state laws. Queensland has legislated to ban single-use plastic bags from 2018.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/14/woolworths-to-phase-out-single-use-plastic-bags-over-12-months?CMP=soc_567

Push for plastic-free utopia

Complete the Border Mail survey:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4793072/push-for-plastic-free-utopia/>

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next newsletter is due out on August 16th.

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies