

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 24.6.15

WATCH news

Unprecedented alliance calls for zero pollution in Australia

WATCH was a signatory to Climate Institute's Open Letter to Parliamentarians re post 2020 targets. There are more than 23 signatures on the Open letter WATCH signed. The organisers sent it to Cabinet Ministers on 12th June and followed that up with a press conference with CEOs in Canberra on 15th June. <http://watch.id.au/2015/06/16/unprecedented-alliance-calls-for-zero-pollution-in-australia/>

Strong targets towards a carbon pollution free Australia - The Climate Institute

This is an open letter calling on parliamentarians to commit to zero carbon pollution in Australia by 2050. http://climateinstitute.org.au/verve/resources/Civil_society_open_letter_final_15062015.pdf

Can you help design a new logo for WATCH?

If you have a flair for graphic design we'd really appreciate your assistance in creating a simple but stylish new logo for WATCH. Please contact lizette@salmonfamily.id.au for further information.

The Pope's Encyclical

Pope urges world to act on climate change | SBS News

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/06/18/pope-urges-world-act-climate-change>

Quotes from the Pope's encyclical - 9news.com.au

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2015/06/19/09/16/quotes-from-the-pope-s-encyclical>

The Global Catholic Climate Movement has launched a petition which has been endorsed by the Pope:

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/take-action/>

Helpers and equipment needed for Albury-Wodonga Repair Café

Repair Cafés are free meeting places that focus on repairing things - electrical appliances, clothes, furniture, bikes and so on. Visitors bring their broken items from home and together with specialists such as electronic repairers, carpenters, sewers and bicycle mechanics, they begin fixing. It's an ongoing learning process and wonderful environmental and social initiative. Plans are afoot to trial this idea in Albury-Wodonga but we need community support. In particular we're after people with repair skills – in electronics, woodwork, sewing, bicycle mechanics etc – who are willing to volunteer half a day a month for a short period. We'd also appreciate donations of equipment and people to join our friendly working group.

We urge you to get in touch if you're able to lend a hand or want to know more – contact Lizette:

lizette@salmonfamily.id.au or 60 59 4185. For more information about this world-wide initiative see: <http://repaircafe.org>

This youtube clip is also worth watching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmmLRVkdZbk>

Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/>

Your online directory listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

The site upgrades are now live. We're making some final tweaks and hope you'll enjoy using the new features. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by Murray Local Land Services and the Australian government for this project. Welcome this month to NE Mates of Mittagundi:

<http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/ne-mates-of-mittagundi/>

What's on in June and July - check all events here:

June <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-06/>

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

Selected events

Fair Food documentary screening – Beechworth July 9th
<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/fair-food-documentary-screening/>

Farm Art in the Bush 2015: Taking Entries
<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/farm-art-in-the-bush-2015/>

Strathbogrie Voices 2015 Euroa Environmental Seminar Series
The Environment, Climate Change and the Paris Talk Euroa, Sat 4.7.15
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-environment-climate-change-and-the-paris-talk-tickets-15195316601?ref=ebtn>

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>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for almost five years. However, with the upcoming cuts to the Border Mail, effective from about mid-August, the future of this popular column is in doubt. Further news will be passed on as it comes to hand. In the meantime if you would like to contribute then please send a 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com

Some recent articles from May and June
<http://ecoportal.net.au/musings-on-tea-bags> By Maureen Cooper, Wooragee Landcare

<http://ecoportal.net.au/livestock-on-small-acres-can-be-costly> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

<http://ecoportal.net.au/ethical-investment> By Alan Hewett, Chiltern Landcare

<http://ecoportal.net.au/worms-wriggly-wonder-workers> By Karen Retra, Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga

Community energy – in our region and around the country

Yackandandah shines off the grid
Great stories about the local town in The Border Mail and The Age:
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/yackandandahs-small-steps-to-a-big-renewable-future-20150605-ghfj1l>

Montessori School, Beechworth
A great little project in Beechworth crowd funded the installation of PV's on the Montessori School. Courtesy of CORENA fund, this solar project is now fully funded. <http://corenafund.org.au/quick-win-projects/funded-projects/project-3/>

Lismore community solar project begins search for investors
Lismore Council has committed to self generating all its required electricity from renewable sources by 2023. One project towards this goal is using community solar.
http://www.energymatters.com.au/renewable-news/lismore-community-solar-em4860/?utm_source=NewsletterMailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EM150608L

Shared Solar could be the future of distributed PV installations
<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/shared-solar-could-be-the-future-of-distributed-pv-installations-92117>

Renewable Albury Wodonga – RAW Energy

Our aim is to start conversations about community owned renewable energy in Albury Wodonga, with a community forum planned for later this year. In the meantime, please 'like' our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy/1628745107358278>

Renewable energy news

Things we learned about Abbott's wind turbine syndrome
<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/things-we-learned-this-week-about-abbotts-wind-turbine-syndrome-29113>

These 4 massive renewable energy projects didn't fit in standard photos

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/these-4-renewable-energy-plants-are-so-big-they-need-satellites-to-photograph-them>

Clean Energy Council report

<https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/policy-advocacy/reports/clean-energy-australia-report.html>

Fossil fuels

A message from Environment Victoria

You may have heard about a new exploration licence being granted near Mirboo North in Gippsland. There have actually been four new coal exploration licences granted in 2015: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/labor-grants-new-coal-exploration-licences-in-victoria-20150617-ghq35k.html>

Here's Environment Victoria's media release: <http://environmentvictoria.org.au/media/new-victorian-coal-licences-ticking-time-bomb-climate-and-local-landholders> You are encouraged to drop a line to the Premier to say coal is not the future, that the rest of the world is moving away from coal, and that you can't be a leader on climate change if you're allowing new coal mines: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au or (03) 9651 5000

'The End of Coal?' - Four Corners

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2015/06/15/4253096.htm>

Waleed Ali nailed it on The Project re the Great Barrier Reef and coal

Thanks for telling it like it is Waleed....

<https://www.facebook.com/GetUpAustralia/posts/10152762076946455>

Divestment

Norway confirms \$900bn sovereign wealth fund's major coal divestment

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/05/norways-pension-fund-to-divest-8bn-from-coal-a-new-analysis-shows>

Norway's parliament voted to sell its country's pension fund shares in companies that mine and burn coal. Please tell your super fund to follow in Norway's footsteps by divesting from fossil fuels. Click here to email your fund today.

Encouraging news from the Australasian College of Physicians

<http://350.org.au/blog/royal-australasian-college-of-physicians-invest-in-health-by-divesting-from-fossil-fuels/>

How dirty is your bank? Big four lending big to fossil fuels

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/how-dirty-is-your-bank-big-four-lending-big-to-fossil-fuels-20150617-ghoko3>

Climate updates

Everything you need to know about the Paris climate summit and UN talks

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/02/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-paris-climate-summit-and-un-talks>

Australia singled out as climate change laggard in new report

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/australia-singled-out-as-climate-change-laggard-in-new-report>

Young people speak out about their fears and hopes on climate change

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/09/how-young-people-are-tackling-climate-change>

IEA - Energy and Climate Change

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/energyclimate/>

Good news from our region

Chooks!

A great little clip on Prime News featuring Lou Bull and Lizette Salmon

<https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n3/news/a/-/national/27629171/chooks-eggs-actly-right-for-modern-living-video> And here's an article in the BM:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3059627/cinammon-the-chook-kicks-off-with-some-tips/?cs=11>

Honeyeaters from the brink...?

With a population that has declined greatly in recent years, the Regent Honeyeater needs all the help it can get. Nearly 80 birds were released into Chiltern–Mount Pilot National Park to bolster the dwindling population of wild birds. Here is some video footage of the release: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=kcZ3V8dicBw>

Big Tree competition winners

<http://www.greatasternranges.org.au/our-partners/ger-regional-partnerships/slopes-to-summit/s2s-big-tree-winners/>

Pollinator count results

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/05/26/4242618.htm>

Wodonga Sustainability Strategy

The City of Wodonga Sustainability Strategy was formally adopted in April. Copies of the strategy and companion are available on the website. Click on the 'environmental strategy' about halfway down the page.

<http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/strategies-plans-policies/Downloads.asp?whichcategory=32&AreaID=14&sortorder=Alpha>

And finally.....

Read this heart-warming story about Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare and the local firm that donated funds to help their cause: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3151919/firm-sets-example-in-food-fight>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday July 22nd. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday July 20th 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>