

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 22.6.16

### WATCH updates

#### The mock wedding!

On Friday 27 May WATCH hosted a mock wedding between a coal mining baron and an MP in front of Sussan Ley's office, highlighting the unhealthy relationship between these groups (i.e. \$3.7 million donations annually from politicians to the fossil fuel industry 'in exchange for' \$7.7 billion subsidies to the fossil fuel industry). Here's a youtube clip of the wedding highlights: <https://youtu.be/L91qkTKNaig>  
And also some other coverage in the local media:

#### Border Mail article

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3920137/cash-til-death-do-us-part/>

#### Prime news clip

<https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n3/video/-/watch/31661745/mock-wedding-in-climate-protest/>

Our action featured some high-profile participants, good media and 50+ wedding guests. Sussan Ley did not attend and has not responded to our correspondence, but other actions across the country have prompted more ALP politicians to sign the Pollution Free Politics pledge.

#### Meeting with Cathy McGowan

On 15th June 2016, representatives from WATCH, the Australian Conservation Foundation and Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group met with Cathy to urge her to make national climate and environmental action a higher priority and be a leadership voice for action. Cathy was very interested in what had been achieved in Yackandandah, and stated that if elected she would provide strong support for renewable energy in Indi. Ms. McGowan urged Indi residents including WATCH members to get involved in local projects and campaigns to build a stronger case for action in the community.

#### Website

For some time, our website lacked photos and looked rather bland. WATCH member Karen Retra has given it a much needed makeover. See: [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au) The content is much the same, but we now have colour and photos. Thanks Karen!

#### Presentations

WATCH has never actively marketed climate change presentations, but in the past few months we've been approached by a number of groups including the Alpine Valley Community Leadership Program, Scots School, March Australia Rally and Sunrise Rotary Group. Lauriston has been doing a great job giving most of these talks.

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

### Election scorecards

#### Environment Victoria

Who gets a thumbs up (or a thumbs down) on renewable energy? Who has a plan to cut pollution and protect nature... and who doesn't? To find the answers: [Check out our climate and environment election scorecard here >>](#)

#### ACF - Please pledge to vote with the environment as priority

Thank you to the 300 Indi residents who signed the Australian Conservation Foundation's pledge to vote for a candidate who supports environmental protection and action on climate change. It's a great start but we really need more signatures. The more who sign, the stronger our case to leaders that you care about this issue. See how the Parties rate and scroll down to sign the pledge: <https://scorecard.acf.org.au>

### 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 welcomed new 'group' listings by [West Hume Landcare](#) and [Trust for Nature](#). Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au>

June <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-06/>

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

## Selected events

### Swanpool Environmental Film Festival 2016

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/swanpool-environmental-film-festival-2016/>

### Open Ideas series

This series is an initiative of the Bhutanese Association in Albury, Albury Wodonga Cultural Exchange (Volunteer Resource Bureau) and Parklands Albury Wodonga. It is designed be an ignition point to feed into local and regional plans about food hubs and community supported agriculture. These talks take place on the last Wednesday of the month, 6-8pm, at the Albury Library Museum. More details here:

[http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL\\_26-May-16\\_975.asp](http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_26-May-16_975.asp)

## Plastic!

### Plastic free July

Will you join the 40,000 people, schools and organisations across 90 countries taking part in Plastic Free July? Will you commit to avoiding single-use plastic items for a day, week or month? To find out more visit <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>. If you decide to take part, please let us know: [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com).

### 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!](#)

### Plastic haste makes waste | The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3881803/plastic-haste-makes-waste/>

## Living sustainably

### Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga <http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/>

The Repair Cafe trial was a great success, averaging more than 40 items at each session and an 80% repair rate. So it's set to continue on the first Saturday of each month in a new venue. If you have a broken household item and need a hand fixing it, this is the place for you.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3911555/repair-cafe-to-settle-in-on-the-border/>

There's no cost and no need to register. Just come along with your broken item and we'll do our best.

**When:** First Saturday of the month, 10.00am-1.00pm

**Where:** Sustainable Activity Centre, former Tourist Information Centre, next to La Maison, Gateway Island, Wodonga

### Sustainable Activity Centre SAC

Lots happening at this venue on Gateway Island. Please check out the website and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter: <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/>

### Albury Wodonga's Sustainable Living Festival 2016

AlburyCity and Wodonga Council are excited to announce that the 2016 Sustainable Living Festival (SLF) will be held across Albury Wodonga during November 2016. Groups are invited to get involved in the festivities by hosting their own event during 1-30 November. To find out more about SLF 2016 please get in touch with Amber Rodd [ARodd@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ARodd@alburycity.nsw.gov.au) or speak with the SLF Project Manager, Renate Griese on 02 6023 8761 or via email [rgriese@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rgriese@alburycity.nsw.gov.au).

## Living Lightly

*Living Lightly* is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website [www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/](http://www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/).

**An important message from Karen Bowley:** I only have a couple of articles left so am in desperate need of more so we can continue to let our communities know about all the different ways that we can live, work and play sustainably. The word limit has been reduced to 380 words which could be a good thing or a bad thing depending on your way with words! Thanks for all your past contributions. I am always receiving positive comments from Border Mail readers about the articles and they are also popular on the Ecoportal website. Hope to be inundated with your articles in the next week or so! Please send them to:

[kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com)

## Recent articles

- [Celebrating five years of Living Lightly](#) By Lizette Salmon, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)
- [A different way to do business](#) By Chris Halburd, B Lab Europe Advisory Board Member and Solicitor at Skinner & Associates
- [Ethical Purchasing – Your Vote Counts!](#) By Alison Mitchell, a Friend of Willow Park
- [Winter is coming](#) By Melissa Kane, Eco friendly Mum
- [A Minister for clothes?](#) By Gill Baker, Wangaratta Sustainability

## Good news from the Victorian Government

### VRET – Victorian Renewable Energy Target

After a community campaign that lasted nearly two-and-a-half years, the Daniel Andrews government has announced Victorian Renewable Energy Targets of 25 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025. To ensure the VRET stands the test of time please: [Email Premier Daniel Andrews and opposition leader Matthew Guy to welcome the VRET and call for bipartisan support](#)

### Independent Review of the Climate Change Act 2010

The Victorian Government Response commits the government to actions that will ensure that Victoria is well positioned to meet current and future needs in responding to climate change. A copy of the response is available on the [DELWP website](#).

### Take2 Pledge

The Victorian Government has launched a wide-ranging pledging program to reduce greenhouse gases across Victoria as part of its commitment to comprehensive action on climate change. So feel free to start pledging and register your commitment to help Victoria reach net zero by 2050: [www.take2.vic.gov.au](http://www.take2.vic.gov.au)

### Victoria to stop pumping out carbon dioxide by 2050, Premier Daniel Andrews promises

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victoria-to-stop-pumping-out-carbon-dioxide-by-2050-premier-daniel-andrews-promises-20160608-gpey3r.html>

## Local food and gardens

### Green thumbs swap and go (video) PRIME7

This video shows what amazing things go on at Birallee Neighbourhood House in Wodonga: <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/v1/news/a-/local/31813775/green-thumbs-swap-and-go-video/>

### Green thumbs seed roots in community | The Border Mail

A wonderful article featuring the Bhutanese community, Parklands Albury Wodonga and the local food network: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3926528/green-thumbs-seed-roots-in-community/?cs=11>

### Idea grows to the east | The Border Mail

Another community garden springing up in Albury? <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3900848/idea-grows-to-the-east/?cs=11>

## Renewable energy

### A Yack attack on climate in Yackandandah | WeeklyTimesNow

Great story featuring news from TRY: <http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/country-living/a-yack-attack-on-climate-in-yackandandah/news-story/92775dad3e4dd28f80e052c40668e766>

### Poll shows renewable energy popular in key Australian electorate Indi

The Australia Institute has put out poll results showing huge support for renewables in the federal seat of Indi. [http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/ugc/blogs/2016/05/poll\\_shows\\_renewable.html](http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/ugc/blogs/2016/05/poll_shows_renewable.html)

### Victoria's largest community solar farm proposed for Wangaratta

A very interesting development! <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victorias-largest-community-solar-farm-proposed-for-wangaratta/>

### South Australia's clean energy revolution – RN Breakfast

Simon Hackett, an Adelaide based battery storage pioneer, says a revolution is coming in the way that energy is bought and sold by consumers. A fascinating interview with Fran Kelly: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/south-australia's-clean-energy-revolution/7515858>

## Great Barrier Reef

### Disturbing news

Australian government officials pressured a prestigious international body to silence the truth about the risks of climate change for the Great Barrier Reef. Australian officials have now confirmed to [The Guardian](#) that they asked the report authors to remove any reference to the Great Barrier Reef, or any Australian world heritage site. No sections about any other country were removed.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/27/australia-scrubbed-from-un-climate-change-report-after-government-intervention>

<http://en.unesco.org/news/new-report-shows-world-heritage-icons-risk-climate-change>

### Great Barrier Reef: diving in the stench of millions of rotting animals – video

[http://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2016/jun/07/great-barrier-reef-diving-in-the-stench-of-millions-of-rotting-animals-video?CMP=soc\\_567](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2016/jun/07/great-barrier-reef-diving-in-the-stench-of-millions-of-rotting-animals-video?CMP=soc_567)

### Take action – Australian Conservation Foundation

Thousands of people have taken the pledge to make their vote count for the Reef. [Have you pledged yet? Pledge now to use your vote to cut pollution, support clean energy and protect our Reef.](#)

## Climate and art

Climarte - arts for a safe climate <http://climarte.org/>

### Artists tell the climate change story:

[It's time for a new age of Enlightenment: why climate change needs 60,000 artists to tell its story](#)

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

*Warm regards,  
Jenny Davies*

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

WATCH email address: [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

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