

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 25.3.15

The Border Mail

Future of local news in the region

Fairfax has announced massive changes to regional news that directly affect The Border Mail. At this paper alone there are plans to cut all sub-editors, most photographers and a large number of reporting staff. That's about 23 jobs. Publications like *Pulse* are unlikely to be part of the future. This will have a direct impact on our ability to get local environment, climate change and sustainability stories published, including the wonderful *Living Lightly* column. So please sign this petition "*Fairfax: Save our local stories. Don't cut rural journalism.*"

<https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-save-our-local-stories-don-t-cut-rural-journalists>

Are we getting the full story?

Here's a letter from David Macilwain where he 'joins the dots': <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2960191/are-we-getting-the-full-story/?cs=52>

Energy target has big impact

Cam Walker from Friends of the Earth wrote his thoughts on the importance of keeping the RET:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2955194/energy-target-has-big-impact/?cs=52>

Protect the RET!

Friends of the Earth joined with 22 other groups to urge the PM to keep the RET at the current target of 41,000 Gwh. The Renewable Energy Target (RET) provides a start for the transition to a low carbon energy system. Send an email to Tony Abbott telling him to demonstrate strong leadership and protect the RET. [Check here for further information](#) and [Please sign our email letter to the PM](#)

Government 'not serious' on RET - Australian Solar Council

<http://www.energymatters.com.au/renewable-news/government-ret-australia-em4738/>

Coal seam gas

Indigo Shire Council says it is "totally opposed" to coal seam gas industry

Congratulations to Indigo Shire for this recent decision:

The Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/indigo-shire-council-says-it-is-totally-opposed-to-coal-seam-gas-industry-20150314-142btt.touch.html>

The Border Mail: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2915609/indigo-thumbs-down-to-csg/>

Royal Commission into the human impact of CSG mining

Here's a message to the Abbott government from Senator Glenn Lazarus: 'We need to undertake a Royal Commission into the human impact of CSG mining'. Please support this petition if you agree. [Sign Senator Lazarus' petition](#)

Lateline - Coal seam gas debate with Dayne Pratzky (Frackman)

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4200408.htm>

Frackman, Monday 30th March, 6:30pm- 8:03pm

Regent Cinemas Albury – tickets selling fast!

Dayne Pratzky loved the quiet life on his rural block in central Queensland. Then the coal seam gas company arrived, and that changed everything. And so began a David and Goliath battle against a \$200 billion industry. Can we imagine any other issue that would bring together the likes of Alan Jones and Bob Brown? Details here:

<https://www.tugg.com/events/13755>

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.

You can join our list to receive weekly or monthly messages by visiting the [newsletter sign up](#) page.

What's on in March and April - check all events here:

March <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/03/21/month/all/all/1>

April <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/04/21/month/all/all/1>

Selected events

Open Garden: Kerr Sustainability Centre, Thurgoona, 28th - 29th March, 10am - 4.30pm

Opening as part of the [Open Gardens Australia](#) program, this community garden offers inspiring diversity and surprising size. Individual plots contain a wealth of vegetables, fruit and herbs intermingled with ornamentals. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/open-garden-kerr-sustainability-centre-thurgoona>

Wild pollinator count

Watch a flowering plant for 10 minutes on any sunny day during the week of April 12th to 18th and submit your observations of pollinators via the website: <http://wildpollinatorcount.com>. More details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/wild-pollinator-count>

2015 Euroa Environmental Seminar Series

11th April – What does Climate Change have to do with my superannuation?
<http://strathbogievoices.com.au/tickets/>

Building a Local Food Future forum, Friday 1st May, Wodonga

A community forum to explore local action around sustainable food production and availability & affordability of healthy food. Details at <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/building-local-food-future-forum>

Living Lightly <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly>

Living Lightly articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for over four years and Karen Bowley needs more! If you would like to contribute then please send a 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com. Not sure what to cover? All previous articles are on the Ecoportal website and they form a wonderful resource of local action and ideas: www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly

Recent articles

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/witterings-gerogery-west> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/backwards-future-or-boldly-forward> By John Lloyd, [Benalla Sustainable Future Group Inc.](#)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/frogs> By Gill Baker, [Wangaratta Sustainability](#)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/joys-solar> By Maureen Cooper, [Wooragee Landcare](#)

Community energy – in our region and around the country

Renewable Albury Wodonga – RAW Energy

Our aim is to start discussions about community owned renewable energy in Albury Wodonga, doing our bit to combat global climate change. Please 'like' our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy/1628745107358278>

Communities take lead on renewable energy

Nice to see that Yackandandah is mentioned here:

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/communities-take-lead-on-renewable-energy-as-big-projects-stall-81109>

NSW allocates funds for community renewable energy projects

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/nsw-allocates-funds-for-community-renewable-energy-projects-59451>

30kW community solar farm, Australia's largest to date, completed in Tathra NSW

<http://cleanenergyforeternity.net.au/>

Byron Shire aims to lead Australia on zero emissions community plan

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/byron-shire-aims-to-lead-australia-on-zero-emissions-community-plan-90958>

Australia's top 10 polluters

Lateline - ACF President Geoffrey Cousins on Australia's Top 10 polluters

An excellent interview with Geoff Cousins saying it how it is:

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4200406.htm>

Bypassing Big Power - Life Matters, ABC Radio National

Given that EnergyAustralia, Origin and AGL are among Australia's Top 10 polluters, how widespread is the move by consumers to bypass big power? A fascinating interview:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/bypassing-big-power/6342892>

Keep it in the ground - Guardian Australia

Climate change: why the Guardian is putting threat to Earth front and centre

The Guardian is setting out on a climate change journey:

<http://view.mail.theguardian.com/?j=fef01d79706503&m=fe961570706d047f7d&ls=fe55137571640d747413&l=ff2e17717363&s=fe551574736304747c12&jb=ff9a1574&ju=fe8b12767360007e72&CMP=ema-29&r=0>

In this clear cut video, Guardian journalists explain the 'keep it in the ground' theory and why we need to keep oil in the soil and coal in the hole: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2015/mar/16/the-biggest-story-in-the-world-why-we-need-to-keep-fossil-fuels-in-the-ground-video>

Australia urged to shut coal-fired power plants urgently as analysis reveals huge emissions

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/19/australia-urged-shut-coal-fired-power-plants-urgently-huge-emissions?CMP=soc_567

Divestment from fossil fuels

Like everyone else, research charities have a duty to divest

<http://theconversation.com/like-everyone-else-research-charities-have-a-duty-to-divest-38974>

Why we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground

Join in urging the world's two biggest charitable funds to move their money out of fossil fuels

<http://www.theguardian.com/keep-it-in-the-ground>

Two NSW councils divest

<http://350.org.au/blog/two-nsw-councils-divest-from-fossil-fuels-showing-growing-csg-opposition/>

Oslo divests from coal – the first capital city to do so

<http://gofossilfree.org/oslo-divests-from-coal-the-first-capital-city-to-do-so/>

Climate updates

Climate is an intergenerational issue, but the report ducked it

<http://theconversation.com/climate-is-an-intergenerational-issue-but-the-report-ducked-it-38371>

Climate Council Briefing Paper - Cyclone Pam

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/417d45f46cc04249d55d59be3da6281c.pdf>

Victorian Government reinstates term 'climate change'

<https://www.businessspectator.com.au/news/2015/3/18/policy-politics/vic-govt-reinstates-term-climate-change>

Good news from our region

Water Ambassador Award 2015

Matthew Charles-Jones has been named as this year's recipient of the 2015 North East Victoria Water Ambassador Award for his efforts in raising awareness of water sustainability around the North East area, particularly in Yackandandah. Congratulations MCJ! Richly deserved! http://www.newater.com.au/news/media-releases/NEW_Media_20-Mar-15_1641.asp

Rare live quoll recorded near Baranduda

Some great news about this rare animal: <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/news/rare-live-quoll-recorded-near-baranduda> And here's a Prime News video link: <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/v1/news/a/-/local/26530461/spotted-a-spotted-quoll-video/>

TAFE graduation celebrations

A great story and photo from the National Environment Centre:

<http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/graduation-celebrations-and-congratulations.html>

Underwritten by the sun

Good news from Yack:

<https://www.facebook.com/yackfolkfestival/photos/a.396823237038088.101647.172922079428206/827358873984520/?type=1&theater>

Wodonga shops host edible plant gardens for public

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2952425/wodonga-shops-host-edible-plant-gardens-for-public/>

Tidy Towns awards

Beechworth won three awards at the National Tidy Towns Awards in Tasmania recently with BULS Patch to Patch getting a mention. <http://kab.org.au/beeceworth-wins-energy-innovation-at-australian-tidy-towns/>

Some thoughts from Clarke and Dawe

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-19/clarke-and-dawe-does-australia-need-a-government/6332758>

Keep up to date by checking the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links:

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

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 22nd April. Please send any items for inclusion by 20th April to jdjdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies

WATCH website <http://watch.id.au> WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com