

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 23.3.16

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Lizette Salmon who was recently recognised by the Zonta Club of Albury Wodonga. Lizette received the inaugural outstanding woman of achievement award after being nominated by Jan Hastings and Penny Vine. She told the Border Mail: 'It was a massive honour and is validation for the work that I, and other climate advocates in our area, have been doing.' We are all thrilled on her behalf! You can read the Border Mail article here: [http://ecoportal.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Zonta\\_award\\_Lizette\\_m.pdf](http://ecoportal.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Zonta_award_Lizette_m.pdf)

### WATCH news

#### WATCH attendance at Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) conference

Three WATCH members, Lizette, Lauriston and Jenny, attended Melbourne's two day CANA conference in mid-March. This was a valuable opportunity to meet, share and learn from fellow grassroots campaigners and Australia's top environmental NGOs. High on the agenda for all groups this year is a concerted push to 'close coal'. Australia currently produces a massive 9,000MW of excess electricity - the equivalent of six coal-burning power stations. We can't ramp up renewables unless we start closing coal-burning power stations. This is a key message every one of us must share far and wide.

#### Are we using the right lingo?

The words we use to discuss climate change can have a powerful impact. Latest research from the Australian Conservation Foundation and Climate Media Centre tells us that we should:

- Talk about 'pollution', not 'emissions/greenhouse gas emissions' ('pollution' is a much stronger frame).
- Refer to 'coal' rather than 'fossil fuels' (many people still don't understand 'fossil fuels')
- Talk about 'destruction of our planet' or 'damage to climate' rather than 'climate change'.
- Engage and strengthen people's deeper values by using words and phrases such as 'empathy', 'community', 'beauty of the natural world', 'justice' and 'responsibility'.

#### Social media

The CANA conference also reinforced the power of social media for connecting with likeminded people and sharing information. For those of you, (like many of us!) who have resisted joining Facebook or who have just dipped your toes in the water, you will be surprised at what you find. Please like our page: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

#### WATCH meetings

WATCH meets every second month in central Albury. If you want to do something about damage to our climate, you can. 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 19th April at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

### Climate pollution

#### Australia's 10 biggest climate polluters – ACF

The data's out. In Australia right now, 10 companies are pumping more climate pollution into our skies than Switzerland, Denmark and Ireland combined. Can you guess who they are? The Australian Conservation Foundation has released a report which is [available online here](#).

#### Coal marketing should come with a health warning – Sydney Morning Herald

The NSW Minerals Council's new campaign extolling the virtues of coal mining was launched on Tuesday, and according to their media release it is due to appear on NSW television screens this month. But like tobacco, coal marketing should have a health warning attached to it. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/coal-marketing-should-come-with-a-health-warning-20160309-gnegkv.html#ixzz43D3Eclj3>

#### Coalition digs deeper into fossil fuels with new "growth centre" – Renew Economy

The federal government has announced the establishment of a \$15.4 million fossil fuel "growth centre", to help prop up Australia's oil, gas, coal and uranium sectors during what it describes as a "challenging time" for the industry. What about a challenging time for the planet?!

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2016/coalition-digs-deeper-into-fossil-fuels-with-new-growth-centre-82395>

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

Lots of events on the calendar! Get your diaries ready:

**March** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-03/>

**April** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-04/>

## Selected events

**Last chance to buy tickets – by the end of today 23 March! ‘Black Hole’, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, Regent Cinema, Albury**

This riveting exposé documents the ongoing battle to save the last of an endangered woodland forest from being cleared to build one of the largest open cut coal mines in Australia. A four year battle has raged between Whitehaven Coal and an unlikely alliance of farmers, grandparents, war veterans, doctors, religious leaders, and environmentalists in one of the most sustained campaigns of non-violent civil disobedience in Australia. The screening will be followed by a brief Q and A session.

**You can purchase your ticket here:** <https://www.tugg.com/events/83421>

More details: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/movie-night-black-hole-feature-documentary/>

**A Vibrant, Clean Energy Future ... Join the Dots!! Saturday April 23, 7 - 10pm, Yackandandah Public Hall**

Totally Renewable Yackandandah proudly invites you to enjoy an evening with Dr John Hewson, and Australian musician, Shane Howard of folk rock group Goanna. This event is a fundraiser for TRY to help Yack shift to 100% renewable power by 2022. Tickets \$35 – you can book here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=184691>

And more details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/a-vibrant-clean-energy-future-join-the-dots/>

## 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/). These articles are a way of inspiring others to have a positive impact on our environment. If you know of someone who would like to contribute or who inspires others by their own example of living lightly, then please encourage them to send a 400 word article to Karen Bowley at [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com)

## Recent articles

[Hollows and Nest Boxes](#) By Jan Hewett & Joan Jones, Trust For Nature Covenanters

[Back to School](#) By Melissa Kane, Eco friendly Mum

[Old Ways Were Best](#) by Roger Findlay

[Be Part of a “Big Picture”](#) By Kylie Durant, Holbrook Landcare Network and Slopes to Summit

## Community renewable energy

### Renewable Albury Wodonga - RAW Energy

RAW team members recently met with Wodonga Mayor Anna Speedie, We updated her on the recent submission to the Victorian Government’s New Energy Jobs Fund by Wodonga council with support from RAW Energy. This would fund a feasibility study into a large scale solar project. We will find out in June if it has been successful. To receive regular updates please send a message to: [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com) Follow us on Facebook:

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

### Totally Renewable Yackandandah -TRY

Some good news here: <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/yackandandah-100-renewable-plans-kick-off-with-90kw-solar-health-centre/#.VtZmYK1GKY4.facebook>

Also this year the Yackandandah Folk Festival YFF will donate half of their trading surplus to TRY for their 'Perpetual Energy Fund.' This fund is a rolling community fund for community energy efficiency and generation projects with the ambition of stimulating our local economy, building resilience into our grid and reducing the carbon emissions associated with our electricity supply. Fantastic! More information on TRY can be found on their website

at: <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/>

## Climate news

### Former Irish president Mary Robinson says climate change is a threat to human rights

Mary Robinson is one of the world's leading voices on climate change and climate justice. The former Irish President explains why climate change poses an existential threat to humanity. Terrific interview with Fran Kelly:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/former-irish-president-mary-robinson-says/7250108>

### Record-breaking heat shows world 'losing battle' against climate change, Alan Finkel tells Q&A

Chief Scientist Alan Finkel doesn't mince his words here:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2016-03-14/recordbreaking-heat-shows-world-losing-battle-against-climate-change-alan-finkel-tells-qampa/1558638>

### Climate change a vote-changer at federal election -The Guardian

Almost half of Australian voters say policies on climate change, renewable energy and the Great Barrier Reef will influence the way they vote at the next federal election. Let's make sure our local candidates are asked for their views:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/17/climate-change-a-vote-changer-at-federal-election-says-poll>

## Divestment update

### Staff demand Australian National University finishes divestment from fossil fuels

Hundreds of academics and other staff at the Australian National University have called on the university to divest completely from fossil fuels, in [an open letter](#) addressed to the ANU council.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/15/staff-demand-anu-finish-divestment-from-fossil-fuels>

### Biggest lenders to fossil fuels in 2015 revealed – Market Forces

Australia's big four banks are heavily exposed to fossil fuels, and our research shows that they are still as integral to the coal, oil and gas industries' fortunes as they ever were. After analysing last year's lending data, we can reveal the biggest lenders to projects and companies in Australia throughout 2015. <http://www.marketforces.org.au/2015lending>

## The power of petitions

### Never underestimate them! A click can make a difference

Tony Windsor's decision to contest the next election might well have been swayed by one:

<http://www.news.com.au/national/politics/tony-windsor-likely-to-contest-new-england-seat-against-barnaby-joyce/news-story/f65414b75c6f96fb7faf7c988ce52f15>

### Senators respond to 105,252 signatures for strong nature protection - ACF

105,252 signatures have been delivered to key decision makers in Canberra calling on Senators not to rip out the laws that protect our air, water and wildlife. Some of those decision makers chose to respond and this is what they said.

Please watch! It gives you an insight into some of the pollies who care about our environment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdwGuEGnnCE&feature=youtu.be>

## Please sign here....

### Petition for Ambition: Victoria's Renewable Energy Target – Friends of the Earth

Send a message to Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy-Premier James Merlino and Treasurer Tim Pallas. Let them know you support a strong Renewable Energy Target that creates jobs, attracts investment, and helps tackle climate change. Please sign here:

[http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/bring\\_on\\_the\\_vret?utm\\_campaign=final\\_push\\_vret&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=friendsofearthmelbourne](http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/bring_on_the_vret?utm_campaign=final_push_vret&utm_medium=email&utm_source=friendsofearthmelbourne)

### Repower Port Augusta! – Australian Youth Climate Coalition AYCC

A great story here. The company who runs a 24-hour solar thermal power station outside Las Vegas in the United States has announced they want to build the same thing in Port Augusta, South Australia, as the town's coal-fired power stations close. Such a great idea!

<https://www.facebook.com/RepowerPortAugsta/videos/961991783896607/?pnref=story>

Add your name here: [We need to get the message out - watch the story and sign up to be part of the action here.](#)

### Reef not coal - GetUp and the Australian Marine Conservation Society

Send a message to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to quit coal to save our Reef:

[Please share this open letter with your friends.](#)

## **Forests not fires – Greenpeace**

To the CEOs of Johnson and Johnson, PepsiCo, Colgate-Palmolive and companies that use palm oil. "Your palm oil policy is failing to stop deforestation in Indonesia. We demand you take urgent action to stop the destruction of forests and peatland for palm oil - before another fires crisis does even more damage." Sign here:

<https://act.greenpeace.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1845&ea.campaign.id=48088&ea.tracking.id=EM1link4&ea.url.id=558867>

## **Reduce, reuse, recycle – and repair!**

### **Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga - last chance**

Don't miss what may be the last chance to get your bike, chair, pair of pants or torch fixed for nix at the Repair Cafe, and in the process learn some tricks of the trade. The final session in our trial will be held Saturday 30 April, 10am-1pm at Wodonga Senior Citizens Centre. Based on past experiences, there's a 75% chance we'll be able to fix your household item and if not, you'll at least be able to enjoy morning tea on us. Have a look at some photos on our FB photo page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1190738760945896.1073741831.1088817197804720&type=3> For more information visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-4/>

### **Tips re recycling**

Still confused as to what goes in each bin? Here is a video made by Wodonga Council to help make things easier. It's on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/FZKPVwpz3cA>

## **Inspirational young people**

### **Meet the two incredible teenage girls who convinced Bali to ban plastic bags**

Melati and Isabel Wijsen, two teenage sisters from Bali, have managed to [convince Bali to ban plastic bags by 2018](#) in an attempt to tackle the island's pressing garbage problem.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/two-teenagers-who-convincing-bali-to-ban-plastic-bags/>

### **Kids take on the US Feds and big oil in historic climate lawsuit**

What a great story! Gives you hope for the future. Read more about it here:

<https://ecowatch.com/2016/03/10/climate-lawsuit-21-kids/>

**Thanks again** to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday April 20th.

*Warm regards,*

*Jenny Davies*

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