

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 18.11.15

WATCH updates

Climate change and health

The 'increasingly unmanageable' threat of climate change on children's health has prompted an open letter from doctors around Australia to the government, calling for Health Minister and Member for Farrer Sussan Ley to attend the United Nations Paris climate summit this December. Have a look at this article in The Age, Canberra Times and Sydney Morning Herald:

[Australian doctors call for Health Minister to attend Paris climate talks](#) We urge you to contact Ms Ley to encourage her to attend: <http://sussanley.com/contact/>

Guide to writing to politicians

On the WATCH website we have a link to a guide for writing letters to politicians:

<https://climatealburywodonga.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/watch-guide-for-writing-letters-to-politicians-and-decisionmakers.pdf> There are some words you may wish to use from this climate change petition which Wangaratta Sustainability Network recently circulated: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/283089823/Climate-Change-Petition>

Finally, if you want to make a short sharp point, you could say 'Australia should set a 2030 target of 65% emissions reduction on 2005 levels if we are to have a reasonable chance of staying within the two degree threshold'. This is also what the Climate Council advocates.

A year of records

October temperatures

We've all heard about the record-breaking October temperatures, but exactly how many degrees warmer than normal was it around the Border? Most people guess around 3 degrees. Think again. The day-time October temperatures recorded at the Albury weather station were a whopping 5.8 degrees warmer than average. But what impact has this had? For starters, the warmer, drier Spring has reduced local wildflowers by around 50%. For more on this see <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3474901/plants-feeling-bushed/?cs=11> If you noticed other changes during this time please notify lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

The human role in 2014's wild weather

<https://theconversation.com/a-year-of-records-the-human-role-in-2014s-wild-weather-50208>

Countdown to Cop21

People's Climate March, 5.30pm, 27th November, Melbourne

As world leaders arrive in Paris for the UN climate summit, the People's Climate March will take place in Melbourne. It will start at the State Library in Swanston St at 5.30pm. For a full list of over 100 supporting organisations please click here: <http://www.peoplesclimate.org.au/endorse>

There are lots of us from Albury and NE Victoria heading down to Melbourne for the March. For details and updates on the bus and carpooling please contact Rowan O'Hagan: rowanohagan@bigpond.com or phone 0427 331 598.

WSN Climate petition

The Wangaratta Sustainability Network Climate Action Group's petition calling for strong action on climate change will be handed to Cathy McGowan on November 20th to present to Parliament. Thanks to all of those who participated. For details contact Rowan O'Hagan: rowanohagan@bigpond.com

COP21: what it is and why it matters

<https://theconversation.com/cop21-what-it-is-and-why-it-matters-50104>

Australian targets

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/showdown-looming-over-climate-change-at-united-nations-paris-climate-change-conference/story-fnjwvztl-1227578167681>

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>

56 event listings featured on the calendar in October! And two new group listings were added this month: [Euroa Arboretum](#) and [Wild Pollinator Count](#).

What else is on in November and December?

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-11/>

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-12/>

Wild Pollinator Count, 15th - 22nd November

It's not too late to be involved: <http://karenretra.com/home/wild-pollinator-count-on-again-15-22-november.html>

For more information check this site: <http://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

Beechworth Food Co-op Open Day, 28th November

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/beechnorth-food-co-op-open-day/>

Although it has already been in operation for 10 months the [Beechworth Food Co-op](#) is officially opening on Saturday 28th November. Come and check out this 100% community owned and run business as we officially open the doors with a festive food atmosphere. For a map of the Co-op location please click [here](#).

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is now being regularly published in Wednesday's Border Mail. The Border Mail will be publishing Living Lightly articles throughout the Christmas/New Year period. So please keep those ideas flowing and send your 400 word article to Karen Bowley at kbowley53@gmail.com. Thank you again to our regular contributors.

Recent articles

[Chooks earning their keep](#) By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

[Sustainable Living Week](#) By Michelle Wilkinson, Green Waste Diversion Officer, City of Wodonga

[RAW Energy](#) By Michelle Wilkinson, Green Waste Diversion Officer, City of Wodonga

Congratulations!

Albury Wodonga's Sustainable Living Week

A huge thank you to Michelle Wilkinson from Wodonga Council for doing such a great job organising the Sustainable Living Market! The RAW Energy Conversation and the Repair Café were highly successful events and there will be more news about them in the December edition.

Wirraminna celebrates 20 years

<http://www.easternriverinachronicle.com.au/story/3485624/wirraminna-to-celebrate-20-years/?cs=633> Check out this wonderful resource in Burrumbuttock: <http://www.wirraminna.org/>

Bungam Community Garden

<http://ecoportal.net.au/groups/bungam-community-garden/>

This community garden in central Albury was started in July. What a transformation! Go and have a look or join the event on December 16th: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/hume-murray-community-gardening-collective-visit-2/>

Blue-banded bee

Karen Retra's photo of a wet blue-banded bee made the top ten #WildOznature photos of the week by Australia's Best Nature & Ecology Blogs! Check out number 3: https://storify.com/BestEcoBlogs/top-10-wildo-ozplants-nature-photos-of-the-week5637016073426cff29f44aac?utm_content=buffer3020&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Climate news

Climate beliefs political: Prime7 news

Thanks to Lizette Salmon for agreeing to be interviewed:

<https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/v1/news/a/-/local/29998025/climate-beliefs-political-survey-video/>

CSIRO report - acceptance of climate change

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-04/majority-of-australians-believe-in-climate-change-csiro-report/6909940>

Time to act on climate - Border Mail

Good to see this article about the Indi summit and Rowan O'Hagan's call for greater action on climate change.

http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3438234/time-to-act-on-climate/?cs=11#disqus_thread

Renewable energy

Community renewables development guide launched by Victorian government

The Victorian government has launched a guide to help community groups make informed decisions about establishing renewable energy projects. The guide is [now available to download](#)

More information here: <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/community-renewables-development-guide-launched-by-victorian-govt/>

Community Renewable Energy Project Workshop, December 4th, Beechworth

The RAW Energy team will be attending this workshop which will be facilitated by four members of the [Coalition for Community Energy](#) - Embark, Moreland Energy Foundation, the Alternative Technology Association and the Community Power Agency. Tickets are free of charge and are available via the [following link](#). For more information on RAW Energy please contact us at renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com and have a look at our Facebook page for photos of the recent event at The Cube: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy/1628745107358278>

ABC Background Briefing – The big disconnect

An over-investment in poles and wires means that 'network charges' on Australian electricity bills are among the highest in the world. But by charging these high prices, have the networks created conditions that will lead them to be undercut by new solar technologies?

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/the-big-disconnect/6915554>

This is the totally renewable energy company selling power off-grid and on the cheap

Australia's first 100 per cent renewable energy utility company will use solar, battery storage and off-grid living to deliver what they say will be lower prices, and it shapes as the latest curve ball for existing energy retailers.

Read the transcript or watch the program:

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4339390.htm>

Fossil fuels

Interview: Geoff Cousins, Australian Conservation Foundation president

Emma Alberici speaks with Geoff Cousins and asks him why the organisation launched a new legal challenge to the massive Adani Carmichael mine in central west Queensland.

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4348402.htm>

Divestment update

Three major Australian institutions have committed to divest from fossil fuels, joining over 450 institutions worldwide. They are the Australian Academy of Science, the National Tertiary Education Union and City of Melbourne Councillors vowed to make the City's investments fossil fuel free. [Can you help to keep building this inspiring momentum by calling upon your local government to break their ties with the industry driving the climate crisis?](#)

A good read.....

Atmosphere of Hope review: Tim Flannery's plans for our climate's future

<http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/books/atmosphere-of-hope-review-tim-flannerys-plans-for-our-climates-future-20150909-gjegw1.html>

James Bradley's Clade finds glimmer of hope in extreme future

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/james-bradleys-clade-finds-glimmer-of-hope-in-extreme-future-20150122-12ti6g.html>

The World Without Us: Mireille Juchau explains why climate change matters

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/the-world-without-us-mireille-juchau-explains-why-climate-change-matters-20150903-gjdheu.html>

Thought for the month

If children lose contact with nature they won't fight for it – George Monbiot

With half of their time spent at screens, the next generation will be poorly equipped to defend the natural world from harm. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/nov/19/children-lose-contact-with-nature>

And Michael Leunig would agree...

<http://www.leunig.com.au/cartoons/recent-cartoons/505-soil>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 16th December. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 14th December 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>