

Albury Wodonga's Sustainable Living Week

Sunday 26th to Saturday 1st November

AlburyCity, City of Wodonga, Hume Bank and the Regional Centre for Expertise Murray Darling have teamed up to present the Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Week with heaps of great events on offer. **Join special guest Costa Georgiadis, the host of ABC's Gardening Australia, as he pops up numerous times!** Check the calendar here: <http://www.humebank.com.au/sustainablelivingweek/whats-on>

Green Market

Saturday 1 November, 8am to 1pm, Hovell Tree Park, Albury

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/albury-wodonga-green-market>

The Green Market aims to offer the latest sustainable home solutions, fresh produce direct from our local farmers, a line-up of environmental groups, fair trade goods and ethical financial advice. For more information visit

<http://www.humebank.com.au/sustainablelivingweek>

WATCH updates

Victorian Women's Trust Monster Climate Petition

WATCH will have a stall at the Green Market and we will be collecting signatures for the Monster Climate Petition. Signatures are being collected throughout the country until just before the G20 meeting in Brisbane in mid-November. It will then be presented to Parliament in the last two sitting weeks of 2014. www.monsterclimatepetition.com.au We already have several hundred signatures but this is a great opportunity to collect more before we send them off to meet the 8th November deadline. **Please contact Jenny if you'd like to lend a hand collecting signatures or just turn up on the day:** jdjbdavies@gmail.com

WATCH on Facebook

Check and 'like' the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links:

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

Letters in the Border Mail

Clearly, coal is not the future – Lizette Salmon

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2638598/clearly-coal-is-not-the-future/?cs=52>

Libs won't give climate answers – Greg Oates <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2605443/lib-wont-give-climate-answers/?cs=14>

Congratulations!

NSW Green Globe Awards

Karen Retra has been named as a finalist in the Sustainability Champion section of the NSW Government's 2014 Green Globe Awards. The Green Globes are the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW. <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2635722/surprise-to-bee-named-awards-finalist/?cs=11> The winner will be announced on Thursday 30th October in Sydney: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes/2014/sustainability-champion.htm>

Campaign updates

Australian Conservation Foundation ACF - Renewable Energy Target

Federal cabinet has formally rejected the recommendations of the Warburton review into the RET.

<http://readnow.isentia.com/articlepresenter.aspx?guid=e72e37fb-2b09-41a9-b105-2c61ec3a8930&serid=84784&ArticleID=322974816&output=txt> But it isn't over yet. Politicians have told us the

campaign to save the Renewable Energy Target isn't visible in their electorate. So we've designed some posters and we'll mail them out to you. [Sign up for your posters here](#)

Environment Victoria

Good news! The Napthine Government has been trying to introduce legislation to scrap the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) but they withdrew their legislation from Parliament. This means that the existing VEET target of 5.4 million tonnes of emissions reduction will stand for 2015. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/victoria-energy-efficiency-target-safe-for-now-as-napthine-govt-backs-down-34707>

Divestment from fossil fuels

Hume Bank and WAW

The Hume Bank does not invest in fossil fuels nor does WAW. Have a look at this link and go to 'Position provided': <http://www.marketforces.org.au/banks/compare> There's a green button where you can 'thank the bank'. For more information visit marketforces.org.au

ANU dumps resources stocks which fail 'social responsibility' test

Is the Australian National University's decision to sell its shares in some resource companies merely tokenistic? Far from it: [Outrage at ANU divestment shows the power of its idea](#)

Churches divest

The Anglican Diocese of Perth has voted to divest from fossil fuels. <http://350.org.au/blog/perth-anglicans-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels/> And their counterparts in Canberra have announced that they have also decided to divest from the coal, oil and gas companies. Read more here: <http://350.org.au/blog/canberra-diocese-joins-perth-anglicans-in-divesting-from-fossil-fuels/>

Within two years the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne will take all reasonable steps to divest its shares in corporations whose revenues from fossil fuel extraction or production exceed 20 per cent of their total revenue. [Click here](#) to view the full article online.

City of Moreland

Melbourne's City of Moreland Council has become the first council in Victoria to rule out direct investments in fossil fuels. <http://350.org.au/blog/moreland-council-votes-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels/>

Local Government super fund

The \$8.5 billion Local Government Super fund has announced that it will no longer invest in companies that generate over a third of their revenue from coal mining or coal fired electricity generation. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/aussie-super-giant-to-divest-from-fossil-fuel-industry/5797636>

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.

From the Ecoportal team, Karen Retra, Jenny Davies, Matthew Charles-Jones

What's on in October and November- check all events here:

October <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/10/20/month/all/all/1>

November <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/11/20/month/all/all/1>

Selected events

Cool Relief - Community Art Project launch, 6pm, Thursday 23rd October, Wodonga Library

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/cool-relief-community-art-project-launch>

'Cool Relief' is a community arts project for refugees and ESL students which teaches them about the importance of our local waterways. A wonderful project! Read more here: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2628474/new-lives-flourish-with-water/?cs=11>

Aussie Backyard Bird Count, 20-26 October

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/aussie-backyard-bird-count>

This is Birdlife Australia's first nationwide bird survey. To enter your sightings through the website click on the 'Submit a Checklist' button at the top of the page OR Download the Aussie Backyard Bird Count app from the iTunes App store or the Google Play store: app: www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

Benalla Sustainable Housing Forum, Saturday 25th October 20, 2014

Find out about sustainable new homes, smart renovations and energy saving upgrades. Learn more about the long term benefits and savings that come from sustainable building. <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/benalla-sustainable-housing-forum>

Wodonga Eco-Living @ The Grove, Friday 31st October

Costa Georgiadis will be at the event from 11am – 1pm to get involved with food growing, scarecrow making, a 'pop-up' garden, speed dating sustainable designers and lots more. Costa will launch the North East Local Produce Guide, published by North East Regional Landcare, plus the Central Business Area's first edible landscape.

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/eco-living-grove>

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

Living Lightly articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for four years. This popular column needs accounts of how you act sustainably in order to live lightly on our planet so please forward your 400 word article(s) to Karen Bowley kbowley53@gmail.com.

Recent articles

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/renewable-energy-target> By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/forest-and-trees> By Dave Cromarty, retired forester and Landcare facilitator

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/walk-mile-my-shoes> By Alan Hewett, Chiltern Landcare member

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/growing-potatoes> By Dirk de Zwart, [Wooragee Landcare](#) and Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health ([WATCH](#))

Local food

Local Food Network – North East and Riverina

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/local-food-network-north-east-and-riverina>

Formally known as Albury Wodonga Regional Food Alliance, the name change is reflective of the Local Food Network's vision of *'thriving local food systems building healthy communities'*. The Network is open to all individuals and organisations in North East and Riverina communities who take an interest in our local food system. For more information please contact Anna MacKinlay, Health Promotion Coordinator, (02) 6022 8888: amackinlay@gatewaycommunityhealth.org.au

Next meeting – Thursday 23rd October, 11am, Gateway Health, Wodonga

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/meeting-local-food-network-north-east-riverina>

Growing Abundance Castlemaine

Some wonderful ideas here: <http://www.cch.org.au/growing-abundance/>

Wodonga news

Wodonga City Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The City of Wodonga Council has voted to become a Sustainable City! What might this mean for us? See the Draft Strategy and have your say. The Council is seeking public feedback for 28 days from Monday 20th October. Go to the website <http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/>. Then find 'About us' and look under the 'Sustainability' heading.

Recycling meets Art Installation, meets Environment and Landcare in Wodonga!

The Wodonga Urban Landcare Network is working with the City of Wodonga on a project with artist Susie Losch to create a floating island made entirely of recycled materials and water plants. If you would like participate, to be 'kept in the loop' or attend creative education programs as part of this exciting project, please contact Anne Stelling, WULN facilitator on 0428565195 or anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au

Recent articles

Richard Flanagan 'ashamed to be Australian' over environmental policies

The Man Booker prize winner says he is saddened by the Australian government's environmental policies and Tony Abbott's statement that 'coal is good for humanity'

http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/oct/15/man-booker-prize-winner-richard-flanagan-ashamed-to-be-an-australian?CMP=soc_567

Why Abbott's faith in coal could be wrong - very wrong

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/why-abbotts-faith-in-coal-could-be-wrong--very-wrong-20141017-117k1b.html#ixzz3GZGIXk65>

Climate summit

'Humanity has never faced a greater challenge' says UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-24/un-says-climate-change-biggest-ever-threat-to-humanity/5764636>

Government drops ball on climate change

Well this is embarrassing.....when a senior adviser to German Chancellor Angela Merkel calls the Australian government's climate approach a "suicide strategy." Read the full article here:

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/government-drops-ball-on-climate-change-20141007-3hhgg.html>

Good news stories in our region

Corena - Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia Inc.

People from all over Australia have been chipping in towards solar panels on the Beechworth Montessori School and we now have \$6,688 towards the \$16k target. The school has already added insulation to the building and double-glazed its windows to improve energy efficiency and is fitted out with recycled furniture.

<https://www.facebook.com/CORENAfund/photos/a.403538403074977.1073741828.402094193219398/680766145352200/?type=1&fref=nf>

Hundreds of conversations at IndiTalks

The Voices for Indi group held meetings at Yackandandah and Swanpool, near Benalla, over the weekend with former independent MP Tony Windsor and Dr Simon Longstaff from Sydney's St James Ethics Centre as guest speakers. Read more here: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2635713/elections-over-but-the-voices-remain-loud/?cs=11>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-20/voices-for-indi-supports-country-summit-plan/5825892>

Thought for the month

Building resilience in an era of limits to growth

After a fascinating presentation by Nicole Foss in Beechworth this month, it seemed a good idea to provide a link to a recent interview on Radio National. Listen to Nicole explain her ideas:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/building-resilience-in-an-era-of-limits-to-growth/5621676>

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 19th November. Please send any items for inclusion by 17th November to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

WATCH on Facebook

Check the WATCH Facebook page for up to date news links.

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

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies