

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 23.9.15

WATCH updates

Thank you!

Thanks to those people who wrote to or emailed our politicians in relation to the Federal government's proposed changes to environmental law. Here is a message from Cathy McGowan's Facebook page on 10th September:

'Today in Parliament I voted against the Environment and Biodiversity Amendment Bill. The Bill sought to remove section 487 of the Environmental Act, the right to bring an action before the court to individuals and organisations who at any time in the preceding two years have engaged in a series of activities for the protection or conservation of, or research into, the Australian environment. In reaching this decision, I took note of constituent concerns, the impact on Indi, and advice from state and national farmer organisations.' Thanks Cathy!

Please continue to send emails or write letters to Member for Indi Cathy McGowan <http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/contact> and Member for Farrer Sussan Ley <http://sussanley.com/contact/> so they can pass on your concerns to the relevant ministers.

Letters in the Border Mail

David Sloane wrote to the Border Mail to express his concerns – it's third on the list:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3292530/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

And so did Ken Ashley – scroll to the second letter: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3301103/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=1>

People's Climate March, Melbourne

On the weekend of 27-29 November, as world leaders arrive in Paris for the UN climate summit, people will take to the streets in hundreds of major cities around the globe as part of the People's Climate March. WATCH has endorsed the March as have more than 25 Victorian-based groups. The Melbourne March will start at 5.30pm on Friday 27th November at the State Library in Swanston St. Follow this link for more details: peoplesclimate.org.au

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

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

Our new PM

Environment Victoria - what Prime Minister Turnbull could mean for our environment

Malcolm Turnbull on climate change in 2012: "Politicians and shock jocks, scientists and coal barons, all of them can argue for as long as they like, but they cannot change the physical reality." We hope Mr Turnbull sticks to the sentiment he expressed in 2012 – that the physical reality of climate change cannot be ignored or denied.

<http://environmentvictoria.org.au/blog/posts/new-turn-what-prime-minister-turnbull-could-mean-environment>

Climate policy change is Turnbull's biggest test – The Age editorial

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/climate-policy-change-is-turnbulls-biggest-test-20150918-gjpx9s.html>

Eight things Malcolm Turnbull should do on climate, renewables

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/eight-things-malcolm-turnbull-should-do-on-climate-renewables-35859>

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>

What's on in September and October?

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-09/>

October <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-10/>

Sustainability in spring

Albury Wodonga Sustainability Week, 7-14 November 2015.

The week will be jam packed full of sustainable living ideas for the Albury-Wodonga community, kicking off with the Green Market to be held on Saturday 7 November from 8am to 12noon on the Lincoln Causeway, in conjunction with the Albury Wodonga Farmers' Market. Registrations for stall holders will open on 1 October. Contact Karen Retra, Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Week Committee at sustainablelivingweek@gmail.com or phone: 0428 629 099

Wodonga Library lunchtime presentations

Spring is here! Come and celebrate with our new series of Wodonga Library Thursday lunch-time presentations on sustainability in your garden. Experienced local gardeners will share their all their top tips on companion planting (8 October), fruit fly (22 October), growing seedlings (5 November), seed saving (19 November) and edible weeds (3 December). For more information and to book tickets (\$15 per session), visit

http://ecoportal.net.au/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/6-16f8d38f3623f0e963c21592a847cb57/2015/08/Sustainability-in-Spring-flyer4.pdf

Community renewable energy – so exciting!

Totally Renewable Yackandandah TRY - Perpetual Energy Fund

Yackandandah is preparing to switch to 100% renewable electricity by 2022. An energy 'makeover' for Yack's community owned hospital, Yackandandah Health, will help reach this target and start a community owned 'TRY Perpetual Energy Fund'. Read more information here: <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/regional-vic-health-centre-going-solar-via-community-funding-model/> When you donate, you'll help the environment and a not-for-profit rural health service. What's more, your donation will be a future oriented gift that keeps on giving.

<https://chuffed.org/project/totally-renewable-yackandandah-perpetual-energy-fund>

Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy – RAW Energy

Let's talk about community owned renewable energy in Albury Wodonga! Join the conversation at a community forum, 6pm on November 12th at Wodonga Cube during Sustainable Living Week – details in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please 'like' our Facebook page and brand new logo!

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

Tathra solar farm up for state award

Such a great model! Tathra's "Imagine" community solar farm has been selected as a finalist in this year's prestigious Green Globe Awards. The solar array is a joint project of Bega Valley Shire Council and community organisation Clean Energy for Eternity.

<http://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/3348331/tathra-solar-farm-up-for-state-award/>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is now being regularly published in Wednesday's Border Mail which is great news! Please send your 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com. Thank you again to our regular contributors.

Recent articles

[Sustainability in spring](#) By Lizette Salmon, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health ([WATCH](#))

[Local sustainable living](#) By Karen Bowley, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health ([WATCH](#)) and [Wooragee Landcare](#)

[Let's talk trash](#) By Melissa Kane, Eco-friendly Mum

[Repair Cafe](#) By Lizette Salmon, Coordinator, [Repair Café Albury-Wodonga](#)

Local food and gardens

Exploring ideas for a regional food hub, Friday 9th October 2015, 1 - 4pm Council Chambers, Wangaratta Government Centre

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/exploring-ideas-for-a-regional-food-hub/>

Presentations by Kirsten Larsen and Serenity Hill from the Open Food Network and Graham Cullen from The Food Garden, Castlemaine, plus updates about the Wangaratta Food for All Network food hub feasibility study, Beechworth Food Co-op and Albury Wodonga Regional Foodshare. Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Hh3Vz8TD6wHcVj2oxi0Vk7acO6tGHCFrr4cphrYORB8/viewform>

Beechworth Food Co-op

In this short video meet Jade Miles and the Beechworth Co-Op who are supplying the town with locally sourced food. We now have an official board and will move into our new space in a few weeks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENjhs6fNlxY&feature=youtu.be>

Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective HMC GC

Healthy Together Wodonga is working to strengthen community gardens in our region by supporting a network where people who are interested in community gardens can get together. Contact Brydie Foran at Gateway Health if you would like to know more or be added to the mailing list Brydie.foran@gatewayhealth.org.au Phone: (02) 6055 3056. Meetings for the rest of the year are to be found on the flyer at this link: [Community garden visits](#)

Parklands Bhutanese Community Market Garden set for summer harvest

The Gateway Island Community Market Garden comprises 1.5 ha and is open to all community members. Tilak Chhetri and Rohit Khulal are the new Market Garden Rangers. They hope that it will become a hub for cultural exchange as Albury Wodonga locals come to work alongside the Bhutanese community who have worked so hard to see this vision grow:

http://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_20-August-15_719.asp

Womens' Health Week in Albury

Gardening is among the techniques recommended to help women lead healthier lifestyles.

<https://www.facebook.com/181929308529058/videos/888714061183909/?fref=nf>

Online petitions

Let the sun shine in!

Under Tony Abbott's leadership the Coalition Government did its best to destroy Australian solar. We need to be sure that Mr Turnbull doesn't follow with the same destructive policies his predecessor was so keen to pursue.

[Can you write your personal message to our new Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, asking him to Stand Up For Solar, including a goal of at least 50% renewable energy by 2030?](#)

Victorian Renewable Energy Target – VRET

The Andrews government has committed to targets for 2020 and 2025 and is accepting submissions on its *Renewable Energy Roadmap* and targets. Here's a simple online action that allows you to recommend your preferred Renewable Energy Targets for 2020 and 2025. **Submissions close on September 30.** It takes about a minute to do and encourages people to insert their own targets. You can find it here:

http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/vret_submission

Make my council fossil-free

Newcastle, home to the world's largest coal port, and the Australian Capital Territory, have both committed to divest, joining 350 institutions globally who are saying no to coal, oil and gas. Several local governments have [already divested](#). Sign-up to get the support you need in encouraging your council to go fossil free.

<http://act.350.org/signup/make-my-council-fossil-free/>

Imagine if they quit!

Last month, the Commonwealth Bank took an important step when they quit their involvement with Adani's Galilee Basin mega coal mine. CommBank is reviewing their investments in all fossil fuels, ahead of their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 17.

[Click here to tell CommBank to commit to quit all coal at their AGM.](#)

Native bees!

Check out some new posts on Karen Retra's blog 'Little House on the Hill':

New generation emerges at bee hotel

<http://karenretra.com/home/new-generation-emerges-at-bee-hotel.html>

Native bees are back - four species sighted in August!

<http://karenretra.com/home/native-bees-are-back-four-species-sighted-in-august.html>

My childhood hero is still going strong....

Good on you Sir David!

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/16/david-attenborough-backs-huge-apollo-clean-energy-research-plan?CMP=share_btn_link

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 21st October. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 19th October to jdjdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies

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