

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 19.11.14

Congratulations to the winners – Karen and Lizette!

We are all thrilled that the hard work from both women has been recognised in this way.

NSW Green Globe Awards

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes/2014/sustainability-champion.htm>

Karen Retra has been named as joint winner 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. More details can be found on Karen's blog:

<http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/green-globe-award-update-a-winner.html>

Environment Victoria Community Recognition awards

Lizette Salmon has won an Environment Victoria award for being a 'powerhouse of local environmental action over several years'. The BM story on Lizette's award and WATCH is online here:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2698775/award-for-commitment-to-climate> . Lizette was unable to be present at the award ceremony event as she was involved with Sustainable Living Week so Victoria McKenzie-McHarg accepted the award on her behalf:

<https://www.facebook.com/environmentvictoria/photos/a.10152817378551753.1073741834.160021291752/10152817472456753/?type=1&theater>

WATCH updates

Invitation to become a WATCH Citizen Scientist

Are you interested in reporting your observations of the impacts of heatwaves on crops, livestock, other plants and animals, humans and infrastructure? If you're interested in becoming an informant for the WATCH climate impacts database, or have any questions, please contact Lizette Salmon at lizette@salmonfamily.id.au or 60 59 4185.

A new WATCH webpage containing observations from past heatwaves and warmwaves is here:

<http://watch.id.au/local-climate-impacts/>

Monster Climate Petition - Victorian Women's Trust

WATCH members collected several hundred signatures and sent them off to meet the 8th November deadline. It will be presented to Parliament in the last two sitting weeks of 2014. And here's a familiar face signing the petition at the Green Market in Albury:

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/photos/a.596490217110957.1073741826.350267491733232/713262322100412/?type=1&theater>

Victorian election

Promise Watch – Environment Victoria

Promise Watch tracks the commitments of the three main parties on our 10 key election issues, 4 on coal/climate, 3 on efficiency/sustainability, 3 on nature. Download here: <http://environmentvictoria.org.au/election2014/policies>

MP Watch – Friends of the Earth

MP Watch is a survey of the public statements made by the State's current members of parliament, and those seeking to become members of parliament. You can find the site here. <http://mpwatch.org/> The focus is on coal, coal seam and unconventional gas, wind energy and policy related to issues of climate and sustainability.

Ecoportal <http://www.ecoport.net.au/>

Your online directory listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

Welcome this month to **Yackandandah Community Centre**: <http://ecoport.net.au/organisations/yackandandah-community-centre>

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

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

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/11/17/month/all/all/1>

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/12/17/month/all/all/1>

Selected events

March Australia – Albury Wodonga Region

Pre-Election Rally, 11am, Sunday 23rd November 2014, Woodland Grove, Wodonga

Climate Guardian Angels gathering, 11am, Monday 24th November (venue to be decided)

The Climate Guardian Angels are to visit Northeast Victoria straight from their successful campaign to raise awareness about climate change at the G20 in Brisbane - www.climatcts.org.au . Come along to be a part of this wonderful statement about community concern regarding the impacts of climate change in rural Victoria and the need for action to be taken. The venue details will be available on Ecoportal.

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. 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/solar-cooking> By Karen Retra, [Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga](#)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/slovenia-small-country-big-appeal> By Alan Hewett, Chiltern Landcare member

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/life-just-couldn%E2%80%99t-get-any-better-my-valley> By Maureen Cooper, [Wooragee Landcare](#)

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/eco-living-grove-friday-31-october> By Michelle Wilkinson, Sustainability Officer, City of Wodonga

Local food news

North East Local Produce Guide

This is a guide to over 90 farmers and growers in North East Victoria and where to find their fresh produce. View the Guide and find local stockists on the website: www.nelocalproduce.com.au Have a look at these links from the launch during Sustainable Living Week at Woodland Grove:.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.770151399688329.1073741827.285076654862475&type=1> The NE Local Produce Guide is an initiative of the Regional Landcare Facilitators and is designed to connect consumers, farmers and retailers to help create more sustainable, local food systems. Huge thanks to Amber Croft for making this dream a reality!

Produce swap in Wodonga

Gateway Health in Partnership with Healthy Together Wodonga is putting the call out to interested individuals/ groups/ organisations to lead a weekly 'produce swap' in central Wodonga in January, February and March 2015. The concept of a produce swap is that residents bring their excess produce, seeds, homemade preserves and even chook poo (whatever you have!) and swap with others. If you are interested or wish to know more please contact Claire Taylor at Healthy Together Wodonga. (02) 6022 9353 or 0401 698 403 or email ctaylor@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Community energy

Launch of Totally Renewable Yackandandah, Saturday 22nd November, 10.30am

Celebrate the re-launching of Yack Community Education Network (YCEN) as Yack Community Centre together with the official launch of TRY. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/totally-renewable-yackandandah-yack-community-centre-launch> Please like the TRY Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewableyack?fref=nf>

Victoria town aims to be 100% renewable by 2022

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/victoria-town-aims-100-renewables-2022>

Power to the people

Great article in The Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/renewable-energy-power-to-the-people-20141103-11fyml.html>

German village Feldheim the country's first community to become energy self-sufficient

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-10/german-village-first-to-become-energy-self-sufficient/5879360?WT.mc_id=newsmail

Latest reports

IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) International Panel on Climate Change

The Synthesis Report distills and integrates the findings of the three working group contributions to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report -- the most comprehensive assessment of climate change yet undertaken, produced by hundreds of scientists -- as well as the two Special Reports produced during this cycle <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Climate Council: Lagging Behind: Australia and the Global Response to Climate Change

This report compares Australia's action on climate change to the rest of the world in regard to reducing emissions and renewable energy, including the actions taken by some of the world's largest economies such as China, the US and EU. <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/globalresponsereport>

Renewable Energy Target RET petitions- all slightly different!

Environment Victoria

Labor has withdrawn from negotiations with the Abbott government which wants to cut the RET. [Will you send a short message to Labor supporting their decision to not weaken the target? Click here >>](#)

Solar Citizens

The Warburton review found the Target will bring down power prices for Australians by 2020. So [write to Federal Cabinet using our easy online tool](#) to tell the Government to get back in touch so Australia can get on with the job growing solar and renewables .

GetUp

The Coalition wants to slash the Renewable Energy Target by up to 40%. Please write to your MP and ask them to ensure Australia keeps its renewables target strong: <https://www.getup.org.au/save-the-ret>

Australian Conservation Foundation ACF - Renewable Energy Target

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](#)

Wodonga Draft Sustainability Strategy

Wodonga Council is currently consulting on the [Draft Sustainability Strategy 2014 to 2020](#).

Have your say by commenting on the strategy online at [Make Wodonga Yours](#), contacting the council on (02) 6022 9300 or writing a letter to the council (Re: Sustainability Strategy, Wodonga Council, PO Box 923, Wodonga, VIC 3689). For more information, please phone Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9300. If you are having trouble viewing this in your browser, please go to www.makewodongayours.com.au

Radio National - worth a listen...

The search for the clean coal holy grail – RN Background Briefing

Paddy Manning tracks the quest for the clean coal holy grail and investigates the men getting unspeakably rich from the search. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/mr-clean-coal/5865876>

Renewables for the poor – RN Breakfast

The argument from the mining industry, economists and the Abbott Government is that coal is lifting millions of people out of poverty around the world by giving them access to cheap electricity. It's a powerful argument - but one which aid organisations like Oxfam say is a furphy.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/renewables-for-the-poor/5864292>

Sweden is showing the way in renewable energy and energy efficiency – RN Ockhams Razor

Andrew Lang, a farmer from Victoria, talks about Sweden's advancement in renewable energy. Some Swedish cities have a target of zero use of fossil fuels by 2030 for electricity, heating or transport.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/sweden-is-showing-the-way-in-renewable-energy-and-energy-effici/5848032>

Local news stories

Places you love – digital stories live

Everyday Australians looking after the places they love. Here's Matthew Charles-Jones:

[Matthew Charles Jones – Founding member, Totally Renewable Yackandandah](#)

Our Native Garden

City of Wodonga, through the Innovations Grant, has funded Our Native Garden nursery for the costs of re-establishing at the Waste Transfer Station. Contact Jill Dawson 0418 579 331 or Coordinator Brian Hickman 0419 372 739 for details. ournativegarden.com.au

Benalla Sustainable Future Group petition

The Benalla Sustainable Future Group put together a petition drawing attention to the scientific evidence published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cathy McGowan received the petition and tabled it in parliament. You can view her speech here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nINIMn2yPyg&feature=youtu.be>

Waste not, want not

Mars Petcare has slashed the amount of waste that it sends to the tip from its Wodonga factory to zero. <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/v1/news/a/-/local/25507328/waste-not-want-not-at-mars-video/>

More on native bees

Blue banded bees – they're just lovely!

We only have one species of Blue Banded bee in this region, *Amegilla asserta*. Four stripes on the females, five on the males. It's typical for them to appear in late October so be on the lookout! Learn more from this great article in Australian Geographic. Thanks to Karen Retra and Glen Johnson for sharing this information.

http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/blogs/creatura-blog/2014/09/blue-banded-bee-a-native-beauty?emv_mid=1346408&emv_rid=892534990

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 17th December. Please send any items for inclusion by 15th December to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

WATCH on Facebook

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

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

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies

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