

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 24.9.14

Global Day of Action, 21st September

The [350.org](http://www.350.org) and GetUp rally in Albury had a great feel to it. Between 150 and 200 attended, 170 signed the Monster Climate Petition and there were many new sign ups for WATCHWORD. Thanks to Chris Sobey for organising the rally. See the article in the BM:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2575242/150-rally-to-back-action-on-climate/?cs=11> And here's a great photo taken by Bruce Key:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=691030884323556&id=350267491733232&aym_t_tip=1

Around 50 people turned out in Harrierville. Thanks to Lizette Salmon and Lisa Tuck for hosting this event:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.691045864322058.1073741827.350267491733232&type=1>

Renewable Energy Target RET

Letters

Have a look at Lauriston Muirhead's brilliant letter in the Border Mail:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2526730/a-sellout-on-energy-target/?cs=14>

WATCH has also sent a letter to Greg Hunt. The decision re the RET is imminent! So please let Minister Hunt know what you think at greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au

Solar Citizens - Cuppa Sunshine

On Sunday 24 August 15 people met at Bean 'n Brew Café in Yackandandah to write letters supporting a strong RET. The letters were mainly written to Victorian Senators Ricky Muir and John Madigan. More than 200 Cuppa Sunshine events happened around the country. Take a look at photos in the [Facebook album](#).

Online petitions – they can make a difference....

It's up to us to let our politicians know that their community wants a clean energy future. Please click here and let Cathy McGowan and Sussan Ley know your views.: [Will you let your MP know you want them to protect the RET?](#) Cathy has already sent a message to thank those in Indi who have contacted her re the RET and she agrees it should be kept. Please also pass on your views to the Victorian Senators here: <http://environmentvictoria.org.au/savetheret#.VAVkvMWSw11>

Solar jobs on the line after review

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2524446/solar-jobs-on-the-line-after-review/?cs=11>

Not another petition! But we reckon this is a good one...

Victorian Women's Trust 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. **Petitions to the House or Representatives require original pen and ink signatures.** So please visit the website, download the petition form, stick it in your bag and gather signatures when you bump into your friends. You will be surprised how quickly the list will grow! **Send the forms to the Victorian Women's Trust by 8th November.** The address is at the bottom of the petition. Here is the link to the website: www.monsterclimatepetition.com.au

Community energy

Totally Renewable Yackandandah TRY - some great news here:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2562051/yackandandah-showing-way-on-renewable-energy-use-editorial/?cs=15>

Victorian town shoots for 100pc renewables

<http://www.energybusinessnews.com.au/carbon-economy-news/victorian-town-shoots-for-100pc-renewables/>

Please like the TRY Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewableyack?fref=nf>

Albury Wodonga

Would you like to help start the conversation about community owned renewable energy in Albury Wodonga? There are a few of us that would but we need a good core group to get that conversation going. We would like to hold a public forum like Yackandandah to get an idea of the local support. However we need people to assist in getting to that point. If you think you would be interested in joining such a group contact Bobbi McKibbin either by email b.mckibbin@anythingsolar.com.au or mobile 0418 293423.

Divestment from fossil fuels is gaining momentum...

Heirs to Rockefeller oil fortune divest from fossil fuels over climate change

Heirs to Standard Oil fortune join a campaign that will withdraw a total of \$50bn from fossil fuels, including from tar sands funds <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/sep/22/rockefeller-heirs-divest-fossil-fuels-climate-change>

Uniting Church divests

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly has resolved to divest from investments in corporations engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels. Details here: <http://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/1585-assembly-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels>

Super funds

UniSuper has decided not to include Origin, AGL and Energy Australia in their new option. Details of the changes are here: <http://www.unisuper.com.au/news/2014/08/29/changes-to-our-sustainable-investment-options> And HESTA will restrict thermal coal investments: <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/29bn-australian-super-fund-to-restrict-thermal-coal-investments-76172>

Future Super and Super Switch

Australia's first fossil fuel free superannuation fund has just been launched with the backing of Bendigo Bank. <http://www.investordaily.com.au/36208-new-ethical-super-fund-launched> To find out more, check out Future Super here: <http://www.myfuturesuper.com.au> 350.org Australia and Market Forces have launched [Super Switch](#) which enables you to find out where your super is invested and provides you with the tools to move your super out of the companies that are causing climate change.

Divestment Day, 18th October

If you bank with the big four and don't want your money being used to invest in fossil fuels, join Divestment Day on Saturday 18 October. [Click here to register today!](#) Click here for a [List of Fossil Free Banks](#). For more information visit marketforces.org.au

CSG update in Corowa

Coal Seam Gas - public forum hosted by Corowa District Landcare

The forum on 28th August attracted a crowd of over 160. The high profile, thought provoking guest speakers delivered a highly informative forum, imparting an understanding on the emerging topic of coal seam gas (CSG) and its relevance to our region, particularly in relation to water, legislation and landholder rights. For details contact Delwyn Clifton: corowalandcare@bigpond.com

Coal hard facts from expert

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2524455/coal-hard-facts-from-expert/?cs=11>

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.

Welcome this month to:

Friends of Ridge Reserves Wodonga

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/friends-ridge-reserves-wodonga>

Totally Renewable Yackandandah

<http://ecoportal.net.au/organisations/totally-renewable-yackandandah>

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

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

September <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/09/23/month/all/all/1>

October <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/10/23/month/all/all/1>

Selected events in October

Indi Talks Democracy - 18th and 19th October

Former Federal Independent Tony Windsor and Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre, will attend these two V4I events in Swanpool and Yackandandah. These events are free and a light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP via the V4I website for catering purposes. www.voicesforindi.com

Swanpool 18th October <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/indi-talks-democracy>

Yackandandah 19th October <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/indi-talks-democracy-0>

AlburyCity Woodland Bird Identification Day, 25th October

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/alburycity-woodland-bird-identification-day>

Wodonga Sustainable Living, 29th and 31st October

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

<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 is in need of brief 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://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/moon-gardening-mumbo-jumbo> By Michelle Wilkinson, [Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga](#)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/dung-beetles-take-sustainability> By Gayle South, Local Landcare Facilitator with the Ovens Landcare Network

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/who-are-big-polluters> By Dave Cromarty, retired forester and Landcare facilitator

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/national-parks> By Alan Hewett, Chiltern Landcare member

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/are-your-bulbs-behaving-promiscuously> By Gill Baker, Wangaratta Sustainability Network

Bike talk

Albury-Wodonga Pedal Power Inc

The regular Saturday morning ride suits riders of all levels. We go to various locations around Albury & Wodonga and the ride generally involves about 60-80 minutes of riding and a coffee shop/bakery somewhere along the way. Distance covered is usually between 18 to 25kms in total. For information call Rob on 0408 698 133. For the full calendar of upcoming rides go to <https://sites.google.com/site/awpedalpower/calendar> For further information go to <http://awpedalpower.org.au> or phone Tony on 0408 205 794.

Tallangatta Tall Trestle Treadle, 19th October

The Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Committee will take you on a day of easy riding, exploring the upper reaches of the High Country Rail Trail. <http://www.ecoport.net.au/event/tallangatta-tall-trestle-treadle-0>

Research study - What drives us to drive, walk or cycle to work in Albury?

<http://www.ecoport.net.au/event/what-drives-us-drive-walk-or-cycle-work-albury>

Copenhagen's newest bike lane totally rules

<http://grist.org/list/copenhagens-newest-bike-lane-totally-rules/>

Health and climate change

Climate change forum in Albury - impacts on health

Here's a link in the BM to the recent climate conference in Albury:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2500039/climate-change-has-impact-on-health/?cs=11>

Pacific climate change link between rising temperatures and disease

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/program/pacific-beat/pacific-climate-change-link-between-rising-temperatures-and-disease/1365543>

A climate of despair

Nicole Thornton, a trained biologist and ecologist, remembers the exact moment her curious case of depression became too real to ignore: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/a-climate-of-despair-20140813-102r1w.html>

We must kill dirty coal before it kills us

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/we-must-kill-dirty-coal-before-it-kills-us-20140902-10b8lk.html#ixzz3CElpveLu>

Food for thought – RN Sunday Extra

Dr Kevin Taft, a Former Liberal Party politician in Alberta, Canada, has written a paper called ***Fossil fuels, global warming and democracy***, in which he argues that democracy will be challenged by global warming because of the influence of the resource giants that will fight to protect their interests. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/845-segment/5744934>

Our living planet

Native bees

The first native bees of the season have appeared in Karen Retra's garden. For the record, it was eight days earlier than last year's first sightings.

<http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/native-bee-spotting-is-on-again.html>

16 Of The Most Magnificent Trees In The World

<http://www.boredpanda.com/most-beautiful-trees/>

Thanks again to everyone who provides content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 22nd October. Please send any items for inclusion by 20th October to jdjdavies@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

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