

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 25.2.15

WATCH updates

Sport feels pinch from rising heat

This article in the Border Mail came about as a result of several WATCH members working behind the scenes and was published to coincide with the Climate Institute's report: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2852809/sport-feels-pinch-from-rising-heat/>

How much heat can sport handle?

Climate change and extreme weather events threaten the viability of much of Australian sport as it's currently played, either in the back yard, at local grounds, or in professional tournaments. Football, cricket, tennis and more are struggling to adapt to, or prepare for, the impacts of climate change. <http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/sport-and-climate.html>

WATCH on Facebook

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

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

Climate news

[The science of climate change: questions and answers](#)

This publication from the Australian Academy of Science aims to address confusion created by contradictory information in the public domain. It sets out to explain the current situation in climate science, including where there is consensus in the scientific community and where uncertainties exist. The document is structured around nine questions.

<https://www.science.org.au/climatechange>

CSIRO and BOM climate projections show Australia warming up | ACF

<http://www.acfonline.org.au/news-media/media-release/csiro-and-bom-climate-projections-show-australia-warming>

Arctic ice

Here's a short video showing loss of Arctic ice: <http://climate.gov/news-features/videos/old-ice-arctic-vanishingly-rare>

Take action

GetUp petition - Renewable Energy Target (RET)

Right now is the perfect time for Australians everywhere to remind our Coalition MPs that, by keeping a strong RET, they will not only be doing what's proven to be best for our country in the long term, but they will also be acting on what the vast majority of Australians are asking for.

[Click here to tell your MP or senator that Australia has got to get it right with the RET, and keep the 41,000 GWh target that has worked so well.](#)

Climate for Change project (www.climateforchange.org.au)

This group is researching 'the climate movement' and is looking for people who would be happy to be interviewed on film for about 5 minutes on their stories. The aim is to interview people who aren't the 'usual suspects', such as conservative voters, religious people, executives, doctors, accountants, and so on. Contact Tony Gleeson to find out more on 0447619736 or email teegeetoonow@yahoo.com.au

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.

Thanks to **Parklands Albury Wodonga** and **Border Bushwalking Club** for posting so many events. You can join our list to receive weekly or monthly messages letting you know the events that are coming up, by visiting the [newsletter sign up](#) page.

What's on in February and March - check all events here:

February <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/02/21/month/all/all/1>

March <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/03/21/month/all/all/1>

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. If you know of someone who would like to contribute or who inspires others by their own example of living lightly, then please encourage them to send a 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com All previous articles published in the Border Mail are on the Ecoportal website and form a terrific resource from our local community: www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly

Recent articles

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/challenges-and-joys-bottling> By Emma Street, [Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga](#)

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/summer-delights> By Sue Brunskill, National Environment Centre

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/bushwalking> By Pauline McLaughlin and Rosemary McConnell, [Border Bushwalking Club](#).

Selected events

Clean Up Australia Day 1st March

- **Albury** <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/clean-australia-day-25-years>
- **Wangaratta** <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/wsn-row-clean-australia-day-event>
- **Beechworth** <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/clean-australia-day-beechworth>

Parklands Albury Wodonga www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

Plenty of activities are scheduled as the summer heat recedes. Here are three events for this coming month:

Wodonga Rail Trail Community Meeting, Thursday 26 February, 7pm

Come and find out what is happening with the disused Bandiana railway branch line and what is planned.

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/wodonga-rail-trail-community-meeting>

Friends of the WRENS walking tour of Baranduda, Thursday 12 March, 9-11am

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/baranduda-link-walking-tour>

Friends of the WRENS walking tour of Drapers Hill Bush Reserve, Monday 16 March 9-11am

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/drapers-hill-parklands-walking-tour>

Slopes to Summit - Big Tree Competition seeking entries

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2887766/stories-of-grand-old-gums/?cs=11>

The hunt is on for region's biggest trees and the best stories behind them! Nature Conservation Trust, on behalf of the Slopes to Summit (S2S) partnership has recently launched a Big Tree Competition and is seeking entries in a number of categories for trees in the S2S project area of NSW. Entry to the competition is free and there is over \$1,000 in prizes to be won. Entries close 5pm 2nd April 2015. To find out more visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event> or contact Sam Niedra sam@nct.org.au M 0448 806 256.

Squirrel Glider Urban Nest Box Project - Thurgoona and Splitters Creek residents needed!

The Albury Conservation Company is delivering a project to construct and supply 100 Squirrel Glider nest boxes to residents in the more built up areas of Thurgoona and Splitters Creek. The project runs until May 2015. To find out more visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event> or contact Sam Niedra sam@nct.org.au M 0448 806 256.

Local updates

Volunteers wanted

Volunteers are required at Birallee Park Neighbourhood House in garden and kitchen projects. We teach people how to grow food and then prepare simple meals. We also run a sewing group each Monday from 10am-2pm. Social inclusion is the aim, extending the language skills of migrants and encouraging employability through volunteering. Contact Sue Slater, Coordinator,

Birallee Park Neighbourhood House (02)60 59 2590 Email: birhouse@bigpond.net.au

Saturday Food Swaps, Wodonga

Running each Saturday from 11am to noon until 21st March, you can get your fruit and veg fix. You will find us outside the Wodonga Council offices. The produce swap is informal and based on an honesty system. Simply turn up with your produce, put it on the table and share it or swap it. For more information contact Brydie.foran@gatewayhealth.org.au

Hume Murray Food Bowl

On alternating weekends there is 'The Gateway Farmers Market,' Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga and now the 'Murray River Farmer's Market' at Hovell Tree Park, Albury. Check the dates at the website www.hmfb.org or contact hmfb.farmers.market@gmail.com for details.

Fossil fuels and divestment

Global Divestment Day

There aren't many things more powerful than witnessing a movement coming together behind a simple idea. That's exactly what unfolded as people from every continent rose up to take action for Global Divestment Day. Watch this short video: <http://gofossilfree.org/wrap-up/>

Rockefeller fund joins global divestment movement - RN Breakfast - ABC

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/rockefeller-fund-joins-global-divestment-movement/6125112>

News from the UK

Bristol has become the second UK city to commit to [divest](#) from fossil fuels <http://bit.ly/1FavhpW>

This cartoon shows fossil fuel subsidies for what they are

<http://350.org/this-cartoon-shows-fossil-fuel-subsidies-for-what-they-are/>

Clean energy

Newstead 100% renewable!

The Victorian Government has followed through on its election commitment to provide a \$200,000 grant to the Newstead community, allowing it become Victoria's first 100% renewable powered town: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newstead-to-become-our-first-fully-renewable-town>

\$150m solar powered greenhouse nears construction in SA

<http://reneweconomy.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37a8faee990290c21229d89ff&id=2a01bfcc63&e=30c402632a>

Toowoomba solar farm

Toowoomba is set to become home to the biggest solar power plant in Australia. When finished it could produce 2 gigawatts of electricity, powering over a million homes.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/toowoomba-council-approves-1bn-solar-farm/story-fnn8dlfs-1227216531992#itm=newscomau%7Chome%7Cnca-homepage-masthead-feature%7C1%7Cheading%7Chomepage%7Chomepage&itmt=1423696141491>

10 cities aiming for 100 percent clean energy

Read more: <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/energy/stories/10-cities-aiming-for-100-percent-clean-energy#ixzz3PuFYUP00>

Food for thought

Cameron, Clegg and Miliband sign joint climate pledge

The three UK party leaders make a cross-party declaration to tackle climate change in a rare show of unity:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/feb/14/cameron-clegg-and-miliband-sign-joint-climate-pledge>

Bob Massie: is a coal free future really feasible? - Life Matters - ABC Radio National

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/bob-massie-just-transition/6163508>

Limits to growth - Ockham's Razor - ABC Radio National

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/limits-to-growth/6088808>

The Year the Dam of Denial Breaks – Ready for the Flood? Paul Gilding

<http://paulgilding.com/2015/02/23/the-year-the-dam-of-denial-breaks-ready-for-the-flood/>

Overcoming the social barriers to climate consensus

<http://theconversation.com/overcoming-the-social-barriers-to-climate-consensus-36889>

Incredible Todmorden!

What should a community do with its unused land? Plant food, of course. With energy and humor, Pam Warhurst tells at the TEDSalon the story of how she and a growing team of volunteers came together to turn plots of unused land into communal vegetable gardens, and to change the narrative of food in their community. This is from Todmorden in the UK.

http://www.ted.com/talks/pam_warhurst_how_we_can_eat_our_landscapes More information here: <http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/> And watch this short movie: <http://vimeo.com/36838823>. Truly inspirational!

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 25th March.

Please send any items for inclusion by 23th March to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards,
Jenny Davies

WATCH website <http://watch.id.au>