

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 13.12.17

### WATCH news

#### Stop Funding Fossils at One Planet Summit

WATCH is a signatory to this letter to the leaders of the multilateral development banks and G20 nations, along with more than 180 civil society organisations from over 55 countries:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/12xZmGv\\_yI\\_JhviosHrV3zvrif3mZfOGtog-crf0nDsU/mobilebasic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12xZmGv_yI_JhviosHrV3zvrif3mZfOGtog-crf0nDsU/mobilebasic)

#### 2017 Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Fair

Despite the rain, it was a good day with an estimated attendance of up to 1000 people. Lots of people came by for a chat at the WATCH stall. We had another 35 sign up for WW bringing our total number of subscribers to around 850. Here are some photos from our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/photos/pcb.1494158210677482/1494157810677522/?type=3&theater>

### #StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

SAAW hosted three phone-call parties, with guests spending two hours phoning Queensland constituents in marginal seats about the election, urging them to put LNP last on the ballot sheet. Making calls wasn't a walk in the park; we got plenty of answering machines and disinterested responses, but we all had at least a few meaningful conversations.

Eighty people have been rostered to call Sussan Ley's office – four people per day for a month. Sussan's staffers have been offering meetings to selected callers. We've gathered almost 1,000 StopAdani signatures for each petition, which organisers hope to present to Cathy and Sussan soon.

If you'd like to know more please contact Tracey: [tesesler@gmail.com](mailto:tesesler@gmail.com) For photos and videos of our actions and to be kept abreast of breaking news, go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

### 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 Ecoportal on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf)

With fewer events offered over the summer, we'll be taking the opportunity to have a break from the email alerts from late December but the calendar and website content will be available as usual. Email alerts and contributors' update will resume in February. Thank you for using and supporting Ecoportal during the year. Special thanks to Karen Retra for her commitment to the maintenance of this wonderful resource.

### Living Lightly

*Living Lightly* is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website [www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/](http://www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/). There will be a break over the Xmas holiday period until 24<sup>th</sup> January. In the meantime, articles from other years will be reused. Karen Bowley has requested that you keep sending her your articles so please email them to [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com). Thanks to all the 2017 contributors and especially to Karen for ensuring the *Living Lightly* column is alive and well.

#### Recent articles

- [Fascination with shark encounters](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga
- [Seeing our landscape with a personal view](#) By Stephen Routledge, Stanley
- [Our Native Garden Nursery Tour](#) By Corinne and Jill Dawson for Our Native Garden Nursery

## Your help is required...

### Funding needed to keep the Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter at Yackandandah running.

The Yackandandah based shelter relies solely on donations to save injured native animals.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5111311/funding-needed-to-keep-the-kangaloola-wildlife-shelter-at-yackandandah-running/?cs=11> People can donate at [www.kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.au](http://www.kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.au)

### Mural for Sustainability - the writing's on the wall

Sustainable Activity Centre has teamed with two artists on a project to create an artwork featuring threatened species of fauna and flora on the Border. A crowdfunding campaign is seeking \$2000 for materials to cover the 7-metre-long wall at Gateway Village. More details here: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5078607/the-writings-on-the-wall/?cs=11>

To contribute to the crowdfunding campaign visit <https://www.gofundme.com/muralforsustainability>

### Yackandandah Folk Festival. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The aim is to work towards zero waste over the next 5 years. To achieve this the festival needs volunteers for the Green Team so put your hand up by going to the festival website and signing up to be a Green Team

Volunteer: <http://yackfolkfestival.com/>

### Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) Conference, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Wodonga

Gillian Triggs and Julian Burnside are Patrons of the Conference and will join the impressive list of speakers including Madelaine Gleeson from University of NSW, Author of *Offshore: Behind the Wire on Manus and Nauru*. We are currently seeking sponsorship and offers of support including billets from organisations, groups and individuals in our community to assist with the hosting of this important event.

Please contact Patten Bridge [pattenbridge1@gmail.com](mailto:pattenbridge1@gmail.com) Mobile 0418 308 414 or Clare Cunnington [rcaj@internode.on.net](mailto:rcaj@internode.on.net) Mobile 0477 445 454 to discuss how you would like to add your voice to this debate and sponsor the event. For more information contact Penny Vine [pcvine46@gmail.com](mailto:pcvine46@gmail.com) Mobile 0407 268 121. Or see the website- <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/>

## Wild Pollinator Count

### Spring 2017 Results

Thank you again to everyone who counted pollinators in the seventh National Wild Pollinator Count! We've reached more locations in Australia this count than before. It's wonderful to see how many people love counting pollinators. We received many comments from people noting how much they enjoyed the opportunity to relax with nature and observe the little animals we share our environment with. This count, we received 458 observations from 126 locations around Australia – our highest number yet.

## Reduce, reuse, recycle repair....

### Craig Reucassel's 'War on Waste' continues

'War on Waste' recently won the Banksia Sustainability Gold Award and returned with a follow-up on Sunday 3rd December. Essential viewing! <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/war-on-waste/>

### War on Waste: new episode peels away at food extravagance

[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/dec/03/war-on-waste-new-episode-peels-away-at-food-extravagance?CMP=soc\\_567](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/dec/03/war-on-waste-new-episode-peels-away-at-food-extravagance?CMP=soc_567)

### REDcycle program in Wodonga

REDcycle is in the process of rolling out new bins and the new Coles store is on the list for the next round. However, this may not happen until the new year. It was great to learn more about REDcycle in 'War on Waste' [www.redcycle.net.au](http://www.redcycle.net.au)

### Border Community Cycleworks – recycling unused bikes back into the community

BCC seeks donations of unused bikes, parts and tools. These will be brought back to working order and donated back to the community. If you are keen on cycling and want to get involved, or have bikes or parts you would like to pass on, please contact Simon on 0447 458 666. Great concept!

<https://bordercommunitycycleworks.com/>

### David Attenborough urges action on plastics after filming Blue Planet II

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/15/david-attenborough-urges-immediate-action-on-plastics-blue-planet>

## Community energy

Forum to gauge interest in potential Thurgoona solar project

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5078421/forum-to-gauge-interest-in-potential-thurgoona-solar-project/?cs=11>

Community energy retailer the next step for Yackandandah

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5094689/community-energy-retailer-the-next-step-for-yackandandah/?cs=11>

The very best solar innovation and community engagement

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5093094/the-very-best-solar-innovation-and-community-engagement/?cs=11>

## More on Adani

**Adani: Bank of China walks - ABC Radio**

The Bank of China joined China Construction Bank and China's Industrial and Commercial Bank in refusing to provide cash for the coal mine. Former foreign minister turned anti-Adani campaigner Bob Carr says there are now no major Chinese investors prepared to back the project.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/adani:-bank-of-china-walks/9230418>

**[Australia's reputation faces 'serious' risks if Adani loan goes ahead: Figueres](#)**

Providing a \$1 billion loan to underwrite Adani's proposed mega coal mine in Queensland would have "serious negative impacts" for Australia's international reputation and "unpick the progress" of the Paris climate agreement, according to Christiana Figueres, a former United Nations climate chief. Figueres made the case against Adani in this interview on RN World Today: <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/worldtoday/climate-change-negotiator-warns:-kodak-moment-for-coal/9197104>

**[The Queensland election outcome is a death knell for Adani's coal mine](#)**

John Hewson: 'The Adani project is already a stranded asset, and definitely not worthy of taxpayer support, or the risks to the Chinese of any involvement'

**[Infographic: here's exactly what Adani's Carmichael mine means for Queensland](#)**

This infographic breaks down what the Carmichael coal means for Queensland, Australia and the world. Fascinating and disturbing.

## Climate updates

**[It's 30 years since scientists first warned of climate threats to Australia](#)**

Three decades since the GREENHOUSE 87 conference, credited as kickstarting public awareness of climate change in Australia, how far have we come, and how far do we have left to go in appreciating the risks?

**[The Dome](#)**

Rising sea levels threaten to flush a vast stash of highly radioactive plutonium into the Pacific Ocean. And as Mark Willacy reports, this is not the only toxic fallout from a legacy of US nuclear tests. A disturbing report from ABC Foreign Correspondent <http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/>

**[Brides of the sun: this is what climate change looks like](#)**

Everyone has their own idea about what climate change looks like. It's that polar bear adrift on its ice floe. It is an apocalyptic future of cities disappearing beneath the waves. Or it is just a big fat lie.

**Powering Past Coal Alliance established**

And Australia is not a signatory...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-17/20-countries-have-signed-up-to-phase-out-coal-power-by-2030/9161056>

## And more Border Mail articles....

**Inaction on climate change is costing lives**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5091390/inaction-on-climate-change-is-costing-lives/?cs=14>

**Angry public fight belief they are being pumped dry of water**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5077976/angry-public-fight-belief-they-are-being-pumped-dry-of-water/>

**Black Barn Farm on a long but rewarding path to growth**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5065852/black-barn-farm-on-a-long-but-rewarding-path-to-growth/?cs=11#slide=12>

**Maria's massive walk to work for conservation**

Maria Bertocini raised almost \$800 for squirrel glider conservation – read more here:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5067474/marias-massive-walk-to-work-for-conservation/?cs=11>

**Proactive community leads the tidiest town to another award**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5084540/proactive-community-leads-the-tidiest-town-to-another-award/?cs=11>

**Material Girl Jodie Bruton on going green this festive season**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5112956/heres-to-keeping-christmas-green-clean-and-meaningful/?cs=11>

**Food for thought**

**[Watch 20 years of the Earth breathing in five minutes](#)**

NASA has released a short video comprising 20 years of satellite imaging showing the Earth as it changes across the seasons.

**Mt Pilot Granite - Everyday Futures - Australia in the age of humans**

A lovely piece of writing from Ian Lunt:

<https://everydayfutures.com.au/project/mt-pilot-granite/>

**Thanks again** to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. The first newsletter for 2018 is due out on 24<sup>th</sup> January. We wish you all a safe and peaceful festive season.

**WATCH meetings**

WATCH usually meets every second month in central Albury. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The next meeting will be in February 2018, date to be announced in January's newsletter.

**Website**

Please check our website: [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

**Facebook**

And follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

WATCH email address: [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

**Warm regards,**

**Jenny Davies**