

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 24.1.18

WATCH news

WATCH meetings

Welcome to what promises to be another busy year for WATCH. We meet every second month in central Albury and offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday 13th February. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

Update on One Planet Summit sign-on

Over 200 organisations, including WATCH, signed on to this global letter from nearly 60 countries. The full list and final letter are available here: <http://priceofoil.org/one-planet-letter> There was also some major press coverage: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/12/calls-for-greater-fossil-fuel-divestment-at-anniversary-of-paris-climate-deal>

Letters in the Border Mail

Well done to Greg Oates for responding to a letter by a climate denier. Greg's letter was in 10th January's copy of the BM. He makes the point that climate change means more extremes of both hot and cold weather. Here's the link to the original letter - you'll need to scroll down to the last one: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5149029/you-say-please-lovely-young-lady-just-put-your-phone-down/>

Which works better: climate fear, or climate hope? Well, it's complicated

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/04/climate-fear-or-hope-change-debate>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Recent actions

Our petitions have been handed to Cathy McGowan (750 signatures) and Sussan Ley (780 signatures). A StopAdani banner was hung on St Matthew's Church in Albury, with Father Peter Macleod Miller's support.

Pressure from all quarters is working, with the ALP having won the Queensland election and vetoed the NAIF loan, Chinese banks have ruled out participation in the project and Downer is no longer building the mine. But Adani hasn't given up yet so we need to maintain the rage.

Big Letter Walk, Saturday 3rd February, 9.30am, Wodonga

Meet near the Tesla recharge outlets, Havelock St, behind the Wodonga library. The plan is to walk up High Street to Junction Place and back again. Contact Les Langmead if you'd like to be part of this action: leslangmead@gmail.com or text to 0429 959 605.

Protest and 'queue-in' outside Sussan Ley's office, 22nd February 12.30-1.30pm,

This will feature a speech by former Albury mayor Claire Douglas, a choir led by Dr Penny Vine and long line of people delivering letters to Sussan's office.

Stay in touch

Contact Tracey Esler for further details: 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>

Events for February <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-02/>

Selected events

Blitzin' the Border, Saturday 27th January, 12:45 - 2:30 pm, Sustainable Activity Centre
Free but please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blitzin-the-border-permablitz-community-info-session-tickets-41739899162>

Repair Café, Saturday 3rd February, 10am - 1 pm, Sustainable Activity Centre - SAC
This month we're featuring inflatable pool toys and because we had to cancel our December session we'll also repair Christmas items.

North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA) Tuesday 6th February, Beechworth

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/ne-regional-sustainability-alliance-nersa-bi-monthly-meeting-j17-3/>
NERSA is a network of community sustainability groups across North East Victoria. Meetings are held every two months at Indigo Shire Offices in Beechworth. Anyone is welcome to attend. For details contact Jenny jdjbdavies@gmail.com or Rowan rowanohagan@bigpond.com

National Sustainable Living Festival Big Weekend, 9th – 11th February, Melbourne

Speakers include Paul Hawken, Bob Brown and David Holmgren. Details here:

<http://slf.org.au/bigweekend/>

Bendigo Climate Drawdown Summit, Thursday 22nd February, 7 - 9pm, Ulumbarra Theatre, Gaol Road, Bendigo

Another opportunity to hear Paul Hawken if you happen to be in this part of Victoria. The link to purchase tickets is <http://bit.ly/2DhBZgj>. And for details of the book 'Drawdown' click here: <http://www.drawdown.org/the-book>

Seed Saving 101 and Farm Tour, Black Barn Farm Stanley, Saturday 17th February

Bookings are required -no fee - via [this new event link](#).

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website <http://ecoportal.net.au/articles/>. Here's a message from Karen Bowley, Volunteer Coordinator of the Living Lightly articles:

'Thank you for your past contributions to the Living Lightly column in the Border Mail on Wednesdays. This is a request for further contributions from you for 2018. I currently have very few articles in reserve. 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 me a 380 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com I look forward to receiving your inspiring articles about living lightly on our planet'.

What's happening in Yack?

Green Team volunteers - Yackandandah Folk Festival, 23rd – 25th March

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 signing up to be a Green Team Volunteer: The link is <http://yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/volunteers/>

Yackandandah Community Garden

The compostable cutlery, cups and bowls gathered at the 2017 Folk Festival were shredded and composted. The compost is now growing vegetables in the community garden. More news here: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5159447/yackandandah-community-garden-reaps-beyond-what-it-sows/?cs=11>

Cafe phases out single-use coffee cups

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5140833/cafe-phases-out-single-use-coffee-cups/?cs=11>

Reduce, re-use, recycle, repair, refuse!

Banning plastic straws

Banning plastic straws is hitting the headlines worldwide. McDonald's is one of the worst polluters, destroying our oceans with millions of one-time-use plastic straws every day. Will you join the global outcry? [Take action now, tell McDonald's to live up to its sustainability commitments and ban plastic straws that pollute our oceans.](#)

[Plastic pollution the last straw for underwater clean-up volunteers at Manly Cove](#)

A volunteer underwater clean-up project at Manly Cove is recovering hundreds of drinking straws from the sea and raising awareness of single-use plastic pollution.

[Coffee Cup Waste](#) By Karen Bowley, Wodonga Albury Toward Climate Health (WATCH) and member of Wooragee Landcare

[Calls for 'latte levy' in the UK](#)

British members of parliament have argued for the establishment of a 'latte levy' to reduce disposable coffee cup waste and help fund recycling.

Responsible cafes

BYO cup, get a discount. <https://www.responsiblecafes.org/>

Energy matters

Community Forum on Renewable Energy for Thurgoona

The forum was held on 30th November. Here's an e-newsletter where you'll find links to the forum's presentations: <https://goo.gl/bV79iE> We hope those of you who live in Thurgoona will consider joining our [Facebook group](#).

Solar thermal power plant announced for Port Augusta

A 150-megawatt solar thermal power plant has been secured for Port Augusta in South Australia. Construction of the \$650 million plant will start in 2018. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-14/solar-thermal-power-plant-announcement-for-port-augusta/8804628>

Gupta plans EV plant in Australia, powered by solar and storage

UK-based billionaire Sanjeev Gupta is looking to buy equipment from and use part of the old Holden factory in South Australia to create an electric vehicle production line. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/gupta-plans-ev-plant-australia-powered-solar-storage-94177/>

[A month in, Tesla's SA battery is surpassing expectations](#)

After a month of operation, the Tesla battery at Hornsdale Power Reserve in SA has outperforming expectations - and the model is set to be emulated in Victoria.

More on Adani

Adani's project could still go ahead with public funds – take action

There is another massive taxpayer-funded loan proposed from the NAIF that could help Adani open up the Galilee Basin to coal mining. Queensland rail company Aurizon want to build their own rail line using taxpayer funds. [Take action! Tell the Queensland Government that they need to veto Aurizon's proposed subsidy to open up the Galilee Basin.](#)

Adani coalmine activists gear up to fight: 'This will dwarf the Franklin blockade'

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/14/adani-coalmine-activists-gear-up-to-fight-this-will-dwarf-the-franklin-blockade>

Adani: Finance agency talks suggest door not shut on taxpayer funding

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-20/adani-finance-agency-talks-suggest-door-not-shut-taxpayer-funds/9344886?pfmredir=sm>

Climate updates

Climate Change Adaptation survey

DELWP Hume Region is currently undertaking a regional gap analysis in relation to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), as part of a broader state-wide initiative. To assist us to better understand local climate change adaptation values, we have developed a brief survey and would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the survey. The survey is available at the following link until midnight, Friday 2 February 2018: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT5VGTK>

Climate summary from Bureau of Meteorology

The BoM has released its [annual climate summary](#). 2017 toppled weather records nationwide as climate change drove up global temperatures. 2017 was the third hottest year on record in Australia and seven of Australia's ten hottest years have occurred since 2005. The Climate Council has some key messages here: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/latest-research-records-topple-in-2017-heat>

In Cape Town, 'Day Zero' is coming very soon - the day the water runs out

Cape Town, South Africa's second-largest city, is facing its worst drought in a century, with its water supply expected to run dry April 21.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/in-cape-town-day-zero-is-coming-very-soon--the-day-the-water-runs-out-20180120-h0lgjk.html>

Great Barrier Reef coral bleaching has started early

There is a warning that coral bleaching has already appeared on parts of the GBR, a month earlier than predicted: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/20/great-barrier-reef-coral-bleaching-has-started-early-biologist-says>

Has climate change caused Barrier Reef green turtles to turn female?

Warmer temperatures are causing Green Turtle offspring to be born as females on the northern Great Barrier Reef. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/has-climate-change-caused-barrier-reef-s-green-turtles-to-turn-female>

Caring for our wildlife

Our selective blindness is lethal to the living world - George Monbiot

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/20/selective-blindness-lethal-natural-world-open-eyes-environment-ecosystem?CMP=soc_567

Birds, bees and bugs: your garden is an ecosystem, and it needs looking after

Whether you live in an urban apartment or a rural homestead, your outdoor area is more than just a private space. It's a thriving ecosystem.

Habitat study aims to arrest decline in frog population

CSU graduate Dr Carmen Amos conducted a rigorous study into the habits of frogs in semi-arid climates to ensure the animal's long-term survival, including a threatened species in Thurgoona.

How to make your backyard frog friendly

Australia's frogs are one of the most endangered groups of animals in the country, and so making your backyard frog friendly can help alleviate the stresses of habitat destruction, disease and pollution.

Good news stories

Kangaloola celebrates most successful Christmas appeal in five years

An ambitious target of \$25,000 was set and the community rose to the challenge – beating the total by \$200 before Christmas. <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5140791/kangaloola-celebrates-most-successful-christmas-appeal-in-five-years/?cs=12>

Food and farmers are worth celebrating, says rural award nominee

Congratulation to Stanley's Jade Miles who has received a nomination for Rural Woman of the Year.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5179865/food-and-farmers-are-worth-celebrating-says-rural-award-nominee/?cs=12>

Thankyou!

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. It is really heartwarming to receive your ideas and suggestions each month. They are much appreciated. We currently have around 850 subscribers and hope this number can be increased during the year. Thanks to Karen Retra for sending the newsletter out each month via Mailchimp. The next edition is due out on 21st February.

Website

Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

Facebook

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

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

Warm regards, Jenny Davies