

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 21.3.18

WATCH news

[WATCH missing in action?](#)

Visitors to our website might have noticed fewer posts this past year or so. This is because many of us have been focused on the Adani Carmichael coal mine. If the mine proceeds it would be Australia's single biggest contributor to climate change and the equivalent of adding a new country with emissions 1.5 times...[Continue reading →](#)

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Protest and 'queue-in' outside Sussan Ley's office, Thursday 22nd February

StopAdani Albury-Wodonga's protest and 'queue-in' outside Sussan Ley's office was a great success with a large crowd, delivery of 145 personalised letters and coverage on all three local television stations:

Prime 7 News <https://www.prime7.com.au/news/1063-coal-protest-targets-mp>

WIN News <https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsAlbury/videos/1578481495540492/>

9 News Border North East

<https://www.facebook.com/9NewsBorderNorthEast/videos/536521756726483/>

Farrer StopAdani petition

Sussan Ley presented the Farrer StopAdani petition to Parliament about a fortnight before the 'queue-in', using it as an opportunity to reiterate Coalition myths about the mine's jobs, quality of Australia's coal and so on. SAAW members are challenging her response via letters and phone calls.

Big letters walk, Saturday 7th April, 11am, Albury

SAAW will be hosting another 'big letters walk' in Albury at 11am on Saturday 7th April, meeting in the park at the foot of the pedestrian bridge at the top of Dean St. It's a quick, fun, visual action, but more volunteers are needed. Please let Les Langmead know if you're coming, on [0429 959 605](tel:0429959605) or leslangmead@gmail.com

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/>

More on Adani

7.30 reports on the break in bi-partisan support for Adani

Here's a segment from the ABC's 7.30 Report. [Worth your 6 mins: view here.](#) Transcript [here.](#)

[Stopping Adani's dirty mine: Our politicians' love affair with fossil fuels](#)

Here's a report on recent developments in the fight to stop the Adani Carmichael coal mine.

Adani's cancelling the March deadline because of failure to get NIF funding for Carmichael

One more nail in its coffin!

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/22/adani-abandons-march-deadline-to-secure-funding-for-carmichael-coalmine>

Community renewable energy

Community action highlighted during Minister Frydenberg's visit

Federal Minister for Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg visited the Federal seat of Indi on March 19th to learn what was happening re community energy across the region. Representatives from several groups including Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) and Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy) attended.

Towards a Totally Renewable Indi

A case study in community action (March 2018) Communities of Indi creating a future of 100% renewable energy

Thanks to Cathy McGowan and her staff for organising Minister Frydenberg's visit which coincided with the launch of a new case study of renewables in Indi, available [here](#). This is a comprehensive resource with useful links to many regional organisations and local groups including WATCH!

Energy minister throws backing behind 'exciting' solar projects - The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5293374/energy-minister-throws-backing-behind-exciting-solar-projects/?cs=11>

[It takes a village: How community will make \(or break\) shift to renewables](#)

According to two separate reports published recently, communities will have a vital role to play in the success of Australia's shift to renewables.

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>

March <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-03/>

April <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-04/>

Selected events

Exhibition 'Regenerate', Arts Space Wodonga, March 16th - April 28th

Artist Stephanie Jakovac shines a spotlight on the ecological processes of destruction, regeneration and renewal after bushfire. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/exhibition-regenerate-stephanie-jakovac-2/>

The role of honey bees and native pollinators in agriculture and home gardens, Sunday March 25th, 9 – 11.30 am, Greta

Come along to hear local apiarist David Briggs and native bee enthusiast Karen Retra discuss the importance of honey bees and other pollinating insects to our gardens, crops and local flora. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/the-role-of-honey-bees-and-native-pollinators-in-agriculture-and-home-gardens-agm/>

Repair Café – featuring mobile phone repair demo, Saturday April 7th, 10am – 1pm, Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC)

Our special feature this session is a **mobile phone repair demonstration**. Sunil Ranjeet from Phonnix Repair Station and Jan Schmidt from Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga will run two half hour workshops <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-18-4/>

'Mural for sustainability' at the SAC

Celebrate the community funded mural by artists Tracie MacVean and Banana Joe.

Reveal, 6:30 – 8pm, 20th April

Tickets available here: (free for contributors/sponsors) <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/reveal-mural-for-sustainability-tickets-43638462817?aff=eac2>

High Tea, 3 – 4pm, 21st April

Tickets available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/high-tea-meet-the-artists-mural-for-sustainability-tickets-43639335427?aff=eac2>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website <http://ecoportal.net.au/articles/> Karen Bowley is always on the lookout for inspiring articles so please send your 380 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com .

Recent articles

[Food Excess From Your Garden](#) By Joan Jones, Trust for Nature Covenanter

[Living the Goodlife in Gerogery](#) By Roger Findlay, Gerogery

[Peregrines & Needletails](#) By Stephen Routledge, Stanley

[Why We Care About Adani](#) By Sally Hendy and Jan Hastings, StopAdani Albury-Wodonga

Daily newsfeeds

[Making Environmental News](#)

Making Enviro News is a portal that collates environmental articles that have appeared in the Australian media in the previous 24 hrs in an easy to access format. [Subscribe](#)

Daily Environmental News

A terrific Daily Environmental News page <http://live.org.au/news/> is sent automatically to email subscribers by David Robinson, convenor of LIVE (Locals into Victoria's Environment)

Environment Victoria

We read a lot of environment news here at Environment Victoria so why not [click here now and subscribe to our FREE morning news wrap>>](#)

Looking after our wildlife

High hopes for the critically endangered regent honeyeater following Gippsland discovery

A pair of Regent Honeyeaters, known as 'Blue White' and 'Blue Orange', have travelled more than 200 kilometres after being released from their Chiltern breeding program:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-15/critically-endangered-regent-honeyeater-pair-found-in-gippsland/9551342>

It's 'Birds in Backyards' autumn survey time!

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/content/article/Its-Autumn-Survey-time>

Calling citizen scientists: more data needed to protect echidnas

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/22/calling-citizen-scientists-more-data-needed-to-protect-echidnas?CMP=soc_567

Insect population decline leaves Australian scientists scratching for solutions

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-24/decline-in-insect-population-baffles-scientists/9481136>

EU farmers face total ban on bee-harming pesticides putting pressure on Australia to follow

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-03-06/eu-may-ban-pesticides-harmful-to-bees-australia-could-follow/9516744>

Climate updates

Weather Alert – ABC Four Corners

Highly influential people, including Ross Brown of Brown Brothers, were interviewed for a recent Four Corners episode: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/weather-alert/9511070>

[The freak warm Arctic weather is unusual, but getting less so](#)

The bizarre heatwave in the Arctic recently– with temperatures dozens of degrees above normal – is part of a growing trend of "warm air intrusions" that threaten to disrupt polar ice all year round. This article provides a good account of the polar vortex.

[New coral bleaching outbreak in NT a worrying sign of our warming oceans](#)

Coral bleaching has struck the Northern Territory, adding urgency to the need for better national management strategies for our warming oceans

[The Nationals have changed their leader but kept the same climate story](#)

Barnaby Joyce had a long history of opposing climate action. His successor Michael McCormack seems to think the same way, despite climate being a growing threat to the Nationals' rural voters.

Energy matters

Energy sector must use new technology to ensure the vulnerable aren't left behind

With the arrival of energy optimisation technologies, governments and industry must find a way to deliver efficient energy to everyone: <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2018/mar/16/energy-sector-must-use-new-tech-to-ensure-the-vulnerable-arent-left-behind>

Marshall's first promise as SA premier: Kill Tesla battery plan

The newly elected South Australia premier, the Liberal Steven Marshall, has made his first promise – his government intends to kill the Tesla plan for the [world's biggest "virtual power plant"](#) that would install batteries in low income households for no cost. H'mm...

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/marshalls-first-promise-as-sa-premier-kill-tesla-battery-plan-68601/>

[Clean & Reliable Power: Roadmap to a Renewable Future](#)

The Climate Council has released a roadmap outlining how Australia can cut its rising greenhouse gas pollution levels, while continuing the transition to clean, affordable and reliable renewable energy and storage technology.

[Shocking Savings: Peak Prices.](#)

You might enjoy this video from the Checkout's Craig Reucassel. It's all about the time of use – the general message being to 'use energy when it's cheapest'...

Border Mail articles

It is time for action on climate say farmers

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5275235/it-is-time-for-action-on-climate-say-farmers/?cs=11>

Helping hands needed to restore Wodonga habitats

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5266476/helping-hands-needed-to-restore-wodonga-habitats/?cs=11>

Cart creates access to fresh food and limiting waste

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5245152/cart-creates-access-to-fresh-food-and-limiting-waste/?cs=11>

Vic cats grounded to keep wildlife safe

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5253236/vic-cats-grounded-to-keep-wildlife-safe/?cs=7>

North East communities leading charge to end plastic bag use

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5246157/north-east-communities-leading-charge-to-end-plastic-bag-use/?cs=11>

Local food stories

A chat with Jade Miles, Rural Women's Award Victorian Finalist

<http://connection.vic.gov.au/a-chat-withjade-miles-rural-womens-award-victorian-finalist/>

Seed Savers at Black Barn Farm in Stanley

Enjoy this report with photos of the recent event at Black Barn Farm, the property of Jade Miles and her partner Charlie Showers:

<https://ssaw.org.au/2018/03/12/seed-savers-event-at-black-barn-farm-in-stanley/>

Thankyou!

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. The next edition is due out on 25th April.

WATCH meetings

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 10th April. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

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