

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 18.4.18

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Come to a free screening of *StopAdani: A Mighty Force*, 5-6pm, Sunday 22nd April, Wodonga St Stephen's Social Justice Group and StopAdani Albury-Wodonga are screening this new, inspiring documentary at St Stephen's Church, corner Beechworth Rd and Nilmar Ave, Wodonga. There will be a light supper and discussion after the film. Tickets are free, but please RSVP by Friday 20th April to the St. Stephen's Uniting Church Office on 60242108 or woduca@bigpond.net.au

Adani groundwater plan could permanently drain desert oasis, scientists say

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-21/adani-groundwater-plan-risks-permanent-damage-to-desert-springs/9569184>

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/>

WATCH news

It was a pleasure to welcome Lucinda Corrigan to our last meeting. Read more about Lucinda here:

Farmers for Climate Action say a unified parliament needed to address looming crisis

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5275235/it-is-time-for-action-on-climate-say-farmers/>

Community Energy Network

The Community Energy Network is a network of groups that has been created to support a community energy retailer for North East Victoria and Albury. The community energy retailer will source renewable energy from across the region. It will also invest in local energy initiatives and retain profits in local communities. The network currently has groups from Beechworth, Benalla, Corryong, Euroa, Indigo Valley, Mansfield, Taggerty, Wangaratta, Wodonga, and Yackandandah.

[Sign up, find your local group and join the local movement.](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=community%20energy%20network) And join the Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=community%20energy%20network>

For further details, contact Cam Klose, Communications & Engagement, Community Energy Retailer Project cam@communityenergyretailer.com 0490 436 948

Community energy network to set up trading of electricity

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5315770/community-energy-network-to-set-up-trading-of-electricity/?cs=48>

Community energy groups

Become a member or join the mailing list. A great way to support our local community energy groups:

Totally Renewable Yackandandah – TRY

<http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/>

Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy Inc – RAW Energy

<http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/membership/>

Renewable Energy Benalla – REB (Benalla Sustainable Future Group)

<https://www.bsfg.org.au/join.html>

Totally Renewable Beechworth -TRB

Join the mailing list here: TRBeechworth@gmail.com

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>

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

May <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-05/>

Selected events

Battery Storage Workshop and Market Place, Saturday April 21, 1 - 4pm, Memorial Hall, Beechworth

Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/battery-storage-workshop-market-place/>

Bulk buy workshop, Sunday 22nd April, 2,30pm, Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre

Mondo Power will be presenting their proposal for a bulk buy of panels, monitoring systems, in future batteries and the establishment of micro-grids to the Benalla community. RSVP info@mondopower.com.au

Off-Grid Living Festival 28th April, Centennial Park, Eldorado,

The Off-Grid Living Festival is a unique and vibrant one-day event displaying the best of off-grid living and sustainable lifestyles.

Solar mini expo, Tallangatta, 5.30- 7pm, Wednesday May 2nd

Towong Shire Council is hosting a free workshop to assist residents and small businesses better understand the benefits and challenges associated with installing solar power batteries.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/solar-power-is-it-for-me-tickets-44910919770>

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

[The Fix](#) By Richard Paschke, Wangaratta

[Storage of Electricity](#) By Bruce Key, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Sustainable Easter](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

[Sharing our Bounty!](#) By Sue Slater, Birallee Park Neighbourhood House

Letters to the editor

Here's an excellent letter from Graham Parton and one from David Macilwain about the recent Rural Australians for Refugees conference in Wodonga, with mention of "climate refugees":

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5321643/you-say-silliness-on-the-part-of-writer-to-deny-truth-on-fires/?cs=52>

Climate change- it's more than an aberration

A great article by Gill Baker in the Wangaratta Chronicle:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/uqwlaans8ov8z32/Jill%20Baker%20Wang%20paper.pdf?dl=0>

John's right - renewables not on a level playing field

Read Bobbi McKibbin's response to John Vance's letter below

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5308819/you-say-johns-right-renewables-not-on-a-level-playing-field/?cs=5748>

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5300270/we-say-solar-isnt-the-panacea-for-our-energy-requirements/?cs=52>

Reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, refuse!

Repair Café Albury Wodonga

Our special feature on April 7th was a mobile phone repair demonstration. Sunil Ranjeet from Phonnix Repair Station and Jan Schmidt from Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga ran two half hour workshops to demonstrate and fix mobile phone problems. Next session May 5th, 10am – 1pm, at the SAC.

<http://ecportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-18-4-2/>

[Sustainable shopping: if you really, truly need a new phone, buy one with replaceable parts](#)

The most sustainable phone is the one you already own. But if you're in the market for a new handset, consider choosing one with replaceable parts to avoid having to replace the whole thing again.

Repair cafes and 'making good' in a disposable world

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/06/the-hands-of-thomas-and-making-good-in-a-disposable-world>

Redcycle update

The Redcycle bin for soft plastics has finally been installed at the new Coles store in Wodonga.

Coal!

In Britain, Conservatives are leading the charge against coal

The Tory Government wants to end the use of unabated coal in the UK within seven years:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-08/uk-conservatives-are-abandoning-coal-fired-power-stations/9630936>

Hazelwood closure cuts Victoria's greenhouse pollution by 10 percent, new report shows

<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2018/03/29/hazelwood-closure-cuts-victorias-greenhouse-pollution-10-percent-new-report-shows/>

[You don't have to be a climate science denier to join the Monash coal forum, but it helps](#)

The Coalition's backbench group of coal fans have a history of attacking climate science

The science makes it abundantly clear that we don't have time to waste when it comes to climate change.

[Coal-fired power stations caused surge in airborne mercury pollution, study finds](#)

Survey says airborne mercury pollution from stations in Victoria's Latrobe valley increased 37% in just 12 months

Climate updates

[If pollies won't act on climate change, farmers will](#)

Australian farmers are pretty savvy. Given Australia's erratic and changing climate, they have to be.

Environmental scorecard CSIRO 2017

<https://theconversation.com/australias-2017-environment-scorecard-like-a-broken-record-high-temperatures-further-stress-our-ecosystems-94114>

[Marine heatwaves are devastating oceans](#) **ABC Saturday Extra**

The concept of a marine heatwave is relatively new to science. In fact, climate scientists have focused their attention on terrestrial heatwaves to date. Listen to this interview with Geraldine Doogue.

Baby fish led astray by rising CO2 levels in the ocean - AM - ABC Radio

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/baby-fish-led-astray-by-rising-co2-levels-in-the-ocean/9643394>

Energy matters

[People Power: Communities funding their own wind and solar projects](#)

An excellent Landline program featuring Yackandandah!

Indi communities embracing renewable energy, pumped hydro and battery

Watch Cathy McGowan in this video clip:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxin5lXntio&sns=em>

Solar PV and wind are on track to replace all coal, oil and gas within two decades

<https://theconversation.com/solar-pv-and-wind-are-on-track-to-replace-all-coal-oil-and-gas-within-two-decades-94033>

Liberal internal division influencing Australia's energy policy – RN Breakfast interview

Oliver Yates, former CEO of the CEFC, telling it as it is. With Fran Kelly.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/liberal-internal-division-influencing-australias-energy-policy/9639896>

AGL chief determined to turn Liddell into renewables hub

Andy Vesey says plant remains an extremely valuable piece of AGL's portfolio until its closure

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/apr/06/agl-chief-determined-to-turn-liddell-into-renewables-hub>

Border Mail articles

Construction jobs created in proposed \$100 million solar farm

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5331033/construction-jobs-created-in-proposed-100-million-solar-farm/?cs=11>

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>

Award recognition for 'tidy' town and school

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5328750/award-recognition-for-tidy-town-and-school/?cs=48>

Chance for 10c bottle return in Victoria

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5321638/chance-for-10c-bottle-return-in-victoria/?cs=11>

Trinity student Sidney White roars on climate cause

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5317924/trinity-student-sidney-white-roars-on-climate-cause/?cs=48>

Water proposal buried after vote to stop groundwater being bottled

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5310395/water-proposal-buried-after-vote-to-stop-groundwater-being-bottled/?cs=11>

Murray Wetland Carbon Storage Project - landholders restore crucial wetlands

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5298922/rehabilitating-the-crucial-murrayland-wetlands/>

So inspiring....

10 year old girl wins straw phase-out battle; Cairns Council agrees to ditch single-use plastics

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-11/banning-straws-could-help-to-save-turtles/9640522>

Thankyou....

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Please note there will be **no May edition** of the newsletter. Next one out on June 20th.

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 June 12th. 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