

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.6.18

WATCH update

Pumped hydro storage ideas for AlburyCity

WATCH members have generated ideas/info on pumped hydro storage for AlburyCity's consideration. Currently AlburyCity are focusing on battery storage but we'd like to ensure they investigate pumped hydro storage options also.

Meeting with the editor of The Border Mail

Lauriston Muirhead held a productive 45 minute meeting with BM editor, Xavier Mardling. When Di Thomas was editor the paper averaged one to two local climate stories each month. Under Xavier it's dropped to one every six to eight months. In part this is due to WATCH focusing on Adani and Xavier not considering this a local issue. It's hoped local climate coverage will increase somewhat henceforth.

TV interviews

Two WATCH interviews in two weeks! Lizette was interviewed regarding AlburyCity's \$2.5 million funding coup: <https://www.facebook.com/9NewsBorderNorthEast/videos/577466799298645/>

And Bruce Key appeared in this clip about phasing out diesel cars:

<https://www.facebook.com/Prime7NewsBorder/videos/1738706899556172/>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Recent events

We've taken our big letters on at least ten outings, on multiple occasions to Albury, Wodonga and Lavington CBDs, as well as various fun runs. We hosted a new film screening with St Stephens Social Justice Group. Almost a hundred people, including a host of new faces, came to our April screening of 'StopAdani: A Mighty Force'. Afterwards La Trobe University's Dr Susan Lawler told us of her first-hand experiences of climate change, while WATCH's Lauriston Muirhead listed twelve important reasons the mine must be stopped.

As part of the national #StopAdani Paint the Town campaign, stencils were chalked in central Albury and Wodonga. The stencils would have washed away quickly with pending rain, but Wodonga Council falsely assumed they were paint and made a swift, public and censorious response. We've drafted a letter to Sussan Ley (based on a letter created by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) and are inviting several local religious leaders to sign then present to Sussan. A Knitting Nannas 'vigil' was held on 14 June outside Sussan's office

Next big letters walk, 10.30am Sat 23 June, Wodonga

Contact Les Langmead for details leslangmead@gmail.com

Action outside Sussan Ley's office 12.30pm Thursday 28 June

Contact Tracey Esler for details: tesesler@gmail.com

Facebook

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/>

Letters to the editor

Leadership is needed, and soon, on drought issue

Scroll down to read Lizette's letter to the editor, published on May 1st. See also a letter about the drought and the need for desalination plants, powered by renewables of course!

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5369447/you-say-leadership-is-needed-and-soon-on-drought-issue/?cs=5748>

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>

June <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-06/>

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-07/>

Selected events

Movie presentation 'The Staging Post', Friday 22nd June, 7.30pm, St. Stephen's Uniting Church, corner Nilmar Avenue and Beechworth Road, Wodonga

Gold Coin Donation to the Refugee Advocacy Group. Light supper following the screening and discussion. Hosted by the Murray Valley Sanctuary Group, the documentary follows the story of two Afghan Hazara refugees.

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

- [Healthy Soils](#) By Jill Coghlan, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)
- [Mass protests gave Holland its cycle paths](#) By Lizette Salmon, StopAdani Albury-Wodonga and Wodonga Albury Toward Climate Health (WATCH)
- [What is the Shark Fin Trade?](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga
- [Predation and Culling](#) By Alan Hewett, Chiltern
- [Innovative Housing Forum](#) By Cheryl Graham, Yackandandah
- [Why will the Basin plan always seem to be 'flawed'](#) By Jonathon Howard, Albury

Repair Café Albury-Wodonga

Congratulations!

The Repair Café received an honorary mention for Wodonga volunteer team of the year. We had our highest ever number of visitors (77) at our June session, thanks largely to a popular chainsaw sharpening and maintenance demo. We'll be featuring leather repairs at our July session.

City of Wodonga - City's volunteers honoured at award ceremony

<https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/20185289540109.asp>

Cut a tough job down to size with help from Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/life-style/5424139/cut-a-tough-job-down-to-size-with-help-from-repair-cafe-albury-wodonga/#slide=1>

Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga – Facebook posts

<https://www.facebook.com/repaircafeaw/photos/pcb.1994639803889117/1994639420555822/?type=3&theater>

News from Parklands Albury Wodonga (PAW)

Parklands Albury Wodonga is a community managed, community-driven organisation. In order to continue to be driven by community priorities, the Board of Parklands Albury Wodonga invites you to input to the direction of the organisation for the next decade. Please take the quick online survey (8 multiple choice questions);

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26MN3SX> Many thanks for your valued time and input.

For details please contact Ant Packer, Community Ranger Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd p: 02 6023 6714 m: 0427 926 282 e: info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

Parklands suffer a shocking burglary

Sad news: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5407774/parklands-suffer-a-shocking-burglary/?cs=11>

Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/f83db1d6563a/news-from-parklands-albury-wodonga?e=24dfe9c66e>

Plastic!

Plastic free July

With just over one week to go until July 1st, the countdown is well underway. Browse our [Plastic Free July website](#) for great resources.

Victoria's Indigo Shire takes organic route to going plastic-free

Good news!

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-01/indigo-shire-in-bid-to-go-plastic-free/9820230>

Greenpeace - take action!

Woolworths and Coles: end plastic packaging on fresh produce: <https://act.gp/2sKDCz0>

Coles, Woolworths step up war on plastic, waste

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/supermarket-giants-step-up-war-on-plastic-20180604-p4zjbn.html>

Coles and Woolworths' plastic bag ban and the choices that remain

What is and isn't being phased out? And how effective will the new policy be?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/06/coles-and-woolworths-plastic-bag-ban-and-the-choices-that-remain>

What happens to small towns whose water becomes big business for bottled brands?

Groundwater being pumped from a highland aquifer, only to be whisked away in tankers and sold in little plastic bottles by a multinational corporation – it's a difficult concept for the town of Stanley to swallow.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-17/what-happens-to-small-towns-whose-water-becomes-big-business-fo/9770128>

Climate updates

Victorian Innovators Lead Climate Change Action

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced in April the successful recipients of \$4.3 million in Climate Change Innovation grants. <http://www.lilydambrosio.com.au/media-releases/victorian-innovators-lead-climate-change-action/>

Grant recipients include Wodonga City Council in partnership with community energy group RAW Energy (Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy) <http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/> for their community solar project. This project will focus on the implementation of a renewable energy model that provides benefits to the community, particularly low income households.

Nation's 'dirtiest' power stations to burn brown coal for decades

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/nation-s-dirtiest-power-stations-to-burn-brown-coal-for-decades-20180601-p4zix2.html>

Weather presenters bring climate change into the home

<https://lens.monash.edu/2018/05/31/1351344?slug=weather-presenters-to-bring-climate-change-into-the-home>

Why blowing the 1.5C global warming goal will leave poor tropical nations sweating most of all

https://theconversation.com/why-blowing-the-1-5c-global-warming-goal-will-leave-poor-tropical-nations-sweating-most-of-all-96988?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton

'It's all about vested interests': untangling conspiracy, conservatism and climate scepticism

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/planet-oz/2018/may/08/its-all-about-vested-interests-untangling-conspiracy-conservatism-and-climate-scepticism>

Antarctic ice loss triples in decade sparking fears of serious trouble

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/antarctic-ice-loss-triples-in-decade-sparking-fears-of-serious-trouble-20180614-p4zlew.html>

Caring for our wildlife

Wild Pollinator Count

Click here for [Autumn 2018 Results](#)

Insect Armageddon!?! - Science Friction - ABC Radio National

Are the world's insects in trouble...or not? And how can we know, when we know so little about them?

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sciencefriction/insect-armageddon/9775654>

EU nations back ban on insecticides to protect honey bees

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-environment-bees/eu-to-fully-ban-neonicotinoid-insecticides-to-protect-bees-idUSKBN1HY11W>

Banking on nature: inside a world-first conservation reserve

Turning a partially cleared parcel of land into a thriving environment for threatened species is part of a long-term sustainability plan for the customer-owned Bank Australia Conservation Reserve.

https://www.theguardian.com/bank-australia-protecting-our-future/2018/may/25/banking-on-nature-inside-a-world-first-conservation-reserve?CMP=share_btn_fb

Border Mail articles

Take a walk on the wild side as rangers host spotlighting adventures

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5462133/take-a-walk-on-the-wild-side-as-rangers-host-spotlighting-adventures/?cs=11>

Empowered empathy helps counteract human cost of rising power

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/news/local-news/5452179/empowered-empathy-helps-counteract-human-cost-of-rising-power/>

Bus shelter display highlights squirrel glider conservation

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/community/5447681/bus-shelter-display-highlights-squirrel-glider-conservation/>

Grow Free food cart swap movement rolls in on the Border

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5428422/grow-free-food-cart-swap-movement-rolls-in-on-the-border/>

Totally Renewable Yackandandah rewarded for bright solar ideas

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5421186/totally-renewable-yackandandah-rewarded-for-bright-solar-ideas/?cs=11>

NSW Government announces close to \$2.5 million for Albury Waste Management Centre projects

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/news/local-news/5434252/albury-wins-big-from-nsw-government-waste-funding/>

Major project lands at North East Innovative Housing Forum

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5409659/major-project-lands-at-north-east-innovative-housing-forum/?cs=48>

Hatching a plan to save the Murray's turtles

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5396031/hatching-a-plan-to-save-the-murrays-turtles/?cs=11>

Big labour of love speaks for threatened species on our patch

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5350271/big-labour-of-love-speaks-for-threatened-species-on-our-patch/?cs=11>

And for all you dog lovers....

The dog squad sniffing out the critically endangered Baw Baw frog

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-10/frog-detection-dog-program/9848392>

Border collies reseeding forests

<https://www.ecowatch.com/border-collies-reseeding-forest-2565858799.html>

Thankyou....

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next one out on July 18th.

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 14th August. 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