

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 22.8.18

Breaking news

Snap Demonstration this afternoon in Wodonga

Everyday Australians want to see strong action on climate change, yet our politics is being dictated by a fringe minority of climate deniers -- backed by the fossil fuel lobby. Right now 100% of NSW is in drought, there are bushfires in the middle of winter and still our politicians refuse to act.

There will be a demonstration **outside Cathy McGowan's office**, 79 High St, Wodonga at **4:30pm today**, Wednesday 22 August. Cathy can take our message to Canberra.

This is about ensuring a safe and liveable planet for our children and grandchildren, so please feel free to bring them along.

For further information contact event organiser, Francesca Ciantar, email: frannyciantar@gmail.com.

WATCH news

Albury City's revised investment policy

AlburyCity has conducted its annual revision of its investment policy and is seeking public comment. Although the policy contained some minor improvements, the council has, over the past years, continued to invest the majority of its funds with banks that support the fossil fuel industry. WATCH submitted a letter outlining the need for greater commitment to divestment and WATCH members have had conversations with the Chief Financial Officer.

Wodonga Council divestment update

If you are interested in how Wodonga Council is going with moving their investments away from fossil fuels, you can see the position at https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/about-us/council-meetings/agendas-minutes/images/minutes_ordinary_council_meeting_-_July_2018.pdf If you go to page 93 it shows that 75.6% of the investments are 'responsible investments' i.e. with banks that have minimal exposure to fossil fuels. This is an impressive result and the Council is to be congratulated.

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Knitting Nannas

A small but stalwart bunch of Knitting Nannas are keeping the pressure on Sussan Ley. Each Thursday these grandmothers will stand up for the future of their grandchildren and the planet. Come along and say hello from 12.30 to 1.30 every Thursday.

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/>

The #StopAdani team

Thanks to emails and calls, Josh Frydenberg temporarily delayed his decision on whether he'd demand a full environmental assessment of Adani's water scheme. But we understand he could make a decision any day now [Can you send his office a quick email to ask him to properly scrutinise Adani's water scheme?](#)

Adani: Indigenous group loses bid to block Carmichael coalmine

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/17/indigenous-group-loses-bid-to-block-adanis-carmichael-coalmine>

Adani spent a year trying to hide this information on its reef spill

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-10/adani-spent-a-year-trying-to-hide-reef-spill-details/10090632>

Letter to the editor

Coal will fail us

Two letters published on August 7 caught the eye of Greg Oates and here is his excellent response: (Unfortunately, you need to subscribe to the BM to read it)

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5576575/you-say-coal-will-fail-us-eventually/?cs=9940>

End of the line: Coal in Australia

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/coal-in-australia/>

Energy matters

'Groundhog Day': business groups slam Turnbull Government's 'destructive' energy backflip

Australia's business communities have slammed the Coalition for being "destructive" by abandoning its National Energy Guarantee (NEG) and a pledge to legislate a 26 per cent emissions cut in the electricity sector.

Renewable energy sharing to be looked at in energy wars

Here's an excerpt from an article in the Border Mail with some comments from Cathy McGowan:

'Ms McGowan has stressed the need for reliability, but with a different focus: she said that could be achieved through residents generating and sharing their own renewable energy.'

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5592241/renewable-energy-sharing-to-be-looked-at-in-energy-wars/?cs=9680>

Community Energy Forums

Six Community Energy forums were held recently across NE Victoria, in Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Beechworth, Bright and Tallangatta. The forums were hosted in conjunction with the Community Energy Retailer project, the Victorian Government and local energy groups including Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy, Wangaratta Sustainability Network, Benalla Sustainable Future Group, Totally Renewable Beechworth, Sustainable Upper Ovens, and Totally Sustainable Tallangatta. [More than 600 sign up for a renewable future of community energy](#)

For further details, please contact Cam Klose, Communications & Engagement, Community Energy Retailer Project: - cam@communityenergyretailer.com t - 0490 436 948. Find out more at www.communityenergyretailer.com

Solar farm to be built on Wodonga's outskirts

Wodonga Council agrees to long-term lease for \$80 million solar farm. Exciting news!

Climate updates

Earth at risk of 'hothouse climate' where efforts to reduce emissions will have no impact

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-07/climate-heading-for-tipping-point-and-risk-of-hothouse-earth/10080274?pfmredir=sm>

Tokyo's heatwave suggests risky temperatures for the 2020 Olympics. Here's what the city can do

The Northern Hemisphere is currently suffering an unprecedented heatwave. In Japan, more than 100 people have died and tens of thousands more are in hospital due to heat-related illness.

Nuclear power takes a hit as European heatwave rolls on

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nuclear-power-takes-a-hit-as-european-heatwave-rolls-on-87477/>

Gina Rinehart company revealed as \$4.5m donor to climate sceptic thinktank

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/jul/21/gina-rinehart-company-revealed-as-45m-donor-to-climate-sceptic-thinktank>

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>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-08/>

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-09/>

Selected events

Native seed production at Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Saturday August 25th, 10am - 1pm <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/wirraminna-visit/>

Repair Café - introducing device help desk Saturday September 1st 10am - 1pm, Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC)

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-feb18-2-3/>

Clean Up Thurgoona, Sunday September 9th, 10am - 12pm, Ernst Grant Oval, Thurgoona

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/clean-up-thurgoona/>

Sustainable House Day Open House, Binderee Grove, Sunday September 16th. 10am – 4pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/sustainable-house-day-open-house-binderee-grove/>

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

[We Need to Talk About Science](#) By Janien Ferguson, Albury City Council

[Jobs and Growth – but for who?](#) By Olivia Noto, StopAdani Albury-Wodonga

[30 Fast Facts](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

[About Values ... \(and Glass\)](#) By Richard Paschke, Wangaratta

WULN - Wodonga Urban Landcare Network

Volunteers required

We are currently seeking volunteers to help with some distinct tasks for WULN:

- 1. Bulletin collation.** This takes about 6 hrs per month and can be done from home. Full instructions available.
- 2. Create a video clip** for the big screen at the Cube.

Contact Anne Stelling, WULN Facilitator, 0428 565 2195. Email WodongaLandcare@gmail.com

WULN Bulletin for August

<https://mailchi.mp/cfda31997a8d/wuln-bulletin-for-august?e=558654b5f4>

WULN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongalandcare>

Caring for our wildlife

A project to help save vulnerable frogs is gaining momentum on the Border

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1857354744358053&id=136887483071463&_rdr

News from Parklands Albury Wodonga

<https://mailchi.mp/b210e5d156d3/news-from-parklands-albury-wodonga?e=24dfe9c66e>

Gardens for Wildlife

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/G4WAW/>

Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-19 - Successful applicants

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/landcare/victorian-landcare-grants-2018-19-successful-applicants>

Reducing our waste

To Burn or Not to Burn? - Foreign Correspondent

<http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/to-burn-or-not-to-burn/10118852>

Tipping Point - Foreign Correspondent

A fascinating documentary about how China deals with its waste problem:

<http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/tipping-point/10083710>

War On Waste Series 2

This excellent series with Craig Reucassel is really worth checking out if you've missed it.

War on Waste Action Toolkit - Download - War On Waste - ABC Radio

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/war-on-waste/war-on-waste-community-tool-kit/9920736>

Throw away your take-away coffee cup for the last time

A great video featuring Saint Monday in Yack

<https://www.facebook.com/LandlineABC/videos/1845561118812442/>

'No reusable cup, no entry': Community centre's hardcore war-on-waste policy

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-26/war-on-waste-country-towns/9944718>

Plastic-wise idea

Hey you Plastic-wise people - what about this then?

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OtBDbWOsHk8>

Update on Stanley's water war

HOW A RURAL AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY IS TAKING A STAND AGAINST BOTTLED WATER GIANT

A rural Victorian community starts a global campaign to stop water being extracted from its local water table for bottling, in what has been described as a David-and-Goliath battle.

And finally....

Pick My Project

Vote for your favourites!

<https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/rounds/pick-my-project/ideas>

Thankyou

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next one will be coming out on September 19th.

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 October 9th. 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