

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 19.9.18

### WATCH news

**WATCH meeting, Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island, Wodonga**

This special meeting will focus on the **draft Wodonga Housing Strategy**. Strategic planner Bridie Guy from Wodonga Council will present the strategy and answer questions. Please RSVP to Lizette Salmon: [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au)

### Cathy McGowan

Bravo to Franny and Lizzy for organising a snap protest outside Cathy McGowan's office on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1820312008062099&id=350267491733232](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1820312008062099&id=350267491733232)

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Cathy gave a speech in Parliament about community renewable energy across Indi and how we are a template for the rest of Australia. [Please see the speech and transcript here](#). She also asked a question to the [Prime Minister about energy policy](#) and climate change. And she gave a follow up [90 second speech about Indi residents demanding action on climate policy!](#) Cathy was also on RN breakfast on September 13<sup>th</sup> talking firstly about women's representation and then [about renewable energy in our region](#).

This is a great opportunity for us to contact Cathy to congratulate her on her stand. Point out you are still very concerned and ask her not to support any legislation that runs counter to effective action on climate change. Please email her at: [cathy.mcgowan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:cathy.mcgowan.mp@aph.gov.au)

### #StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

**Next meeting, 6.30pm, Thursday 27th September, Sustainable Activity Centre**

Our next meeting will be attended by special guest speaker, Charlie Wood from Tipping Point.

### Farms not coal, coral not coal!

Scott Morrison was greeted with a chant when he arrived at Mirambeena Community Centre in Lavington on September 6<sup>th</sup>. A hardy bunch of protesters gathered despite last minute notice and inclement weather. The group called on Morrison to [#StopAdani](#) and demonstrated strong support for farmers and renewables. And what is Scott Morrison's philosophy? According to the Border Mail, when asked what he wants in energy infrastructure, he said: "Stuff that works when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. That's the reliable power that we need in our system." H'mm...

### Adani news

The Queensland Environment Dept is investigating the six groundwater bores that Adani has sunk without permissions, all before the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan has been approved, putting the Doongmabulla Springs at risk. [Full story here](#) And Adani is to be prosecuted over release of coal-laden water near Great Barrier Reef:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-05/adani-prosecuted-over-release-of-sediment-near-barrier-reef/10204374>

The decision on whether Adani gets unsupervised access to a further 12.5 billion litres of Queensland's water now sits before our new Minister for Environment, Melissa Price.

[Ask our new Minister for Environment to conduct a proper review as her first order of business!](#)

### Knitting Nannas

The 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. Last week one of them gave Sussan a copy of the newly released book *The Coal Truth*. Come along and say hello to the Knitting Nannas from 12.30 to 1.30pm every Thursday outside Sussan's office. Or phone her office to ask if she's read the book!

### 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

### We need a future planet that is sustainable - The Border Mail

Two excellent letters from Olivia Noto and Graham Parton:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5633886/you-say-we-need-a-future-planet-that-is-sustainable/?cs=9683>

## 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>

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

**October** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-10/>

## Selected events

### Documentary "Evolution of Organic" Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2- 3.30pm, Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island, Wodonga

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/evolution-of-organics-documentary/>

There will also be a Pot Luck Picnic Lunch beforehand.

### Community Skills Development Program – bookings now open

The Wodonga Urban Landcare Network and Kiewa Catchments Landcare Network are offering a range of workshops at no cost to participants thanks to the Victorian Government's Community Skills Development program.

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/community-skills-development-program-bookings-now-open/>

### Our Native Garden Nursery spring plant sale, Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am - 1pm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/spring-plant-sale-our-native-garden-nursery/>

### Local Freshwater Habitats, Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Lake Sambell, Beechworth

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/local-freshwater-habitats/>

## 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 **and she is running short** so please send your 380 word article to [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com) .

### Recent articles

[My Two Favourite Things in Life](#) By Karen Bowley, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH) and Wooragee Landcare

[Fox Depredation on our Wildlife](#) By Maureen Cooper, Wooragee Landcare

[Stop the Burning](#) By David Macilwain, Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

[Jawsome Encounters](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

## Totally Renewable Yackandandah

### Heroes building Australia's low-carbon economy

TRY has been recognised as the best small-scale community project in this report. Well done!

<https://350.org.au/heroes-building-australias-low-carbon-economy/>

### A totally renewable future is within reach

An article by TRY's Matthew Charles-Jones

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5619107/a-totally-renewable-future-is-within-reach/>

### Totally Renewable Yackandandah named a solar energy hero

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5642023/totally-renewable-yackandandah-named-a-solar-energy-hero/?cs=9680>

## **New solar + battery round for Yackandandah, as 100% renewable plans take shape**

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/new-solar-battery-round-launched-yackandandah-100-renewable-plans-take-shape/>

## **Regional energy news**

### **Indigo Power unveiled as community energy retailer's name**

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5614664/floral-inspiration-for-community-energy-retailers-name/?cs=9680>

### **Victoria to support six wind and solar farms after overwhelming response to auction**

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-to-support-six-wind-and-solar-farms-after-overwhelming-response-to-auction-43989/>

### **Winton Solar Farm**

One of the successful projects about 25km south of Wangaratta:

<http://wintonsolarfarm.com/about-us/>

### **Euroa's grassroots solar microgrid plan to avoid summer blackouts**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-06/euroa-microgrid-plan-to-avoid-summer-blackouts/10209080?pfmredir=sm>

## **Climate updates**

### **Scott Morrison needs a plan to cut emissions but all he has is a fairytale**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/15/scott-morrison-needs-a-plan-to-cut-emissions-but-all-he-has-is-a-fairytale>

### **World must act by 2020 to avoid runaway climate change, UN chief says**

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/world-must-act-by-2020-to-avoid-runaway-climate-change-un-chief-says>

### **[Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele hits out at climate change sceptics during fiery speech](#)**

Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele has urged Australia to make deeper cuts to carbon emissions to help save Pacific Island nations from the "disaster" of climate change.

### **[Spring is coming, and there's little drought relief in sight](#)**

A new outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a dry, warm spring – and not the sustained rain we need.

### **[Canavan ridicules climate health report, days after climate health expert wins Liberal safe seat](#)**

Canavan dismisses Queensland government report on climate impacts as "imaginary threats of a climate induced drug outbreak."

### **[Independent climate campaigner ends Liberals' 61-year hold of Wagga Wagga](#)**

As farmers protest lack of climate action in Canberra, a seat held by the Liberal Party since 1957 has been won by a climate activist, pro-renewables independent.

## **Great Barrier Reef**

### **[Lethal Consequences: Climate Change Impacts on the Great Barrier Reef](#)**

The Great Barrier Reef could be hit with repeat coral bleaching events every two years by 2034 under current greenhouse gas pollution rates, the Climate Council's new report shows.

### **[Virtual Reef Diver brings the Great Barrier Reef to citizen scientists ...](#)**

A new project called [Virtual Reef Diver](#), led by a collaborative team of scientists and featured by the ABC during Science Week, is calling for people all across Australia to help out — by classifying underwater reef images from their own loungerooms. By volunteering your time to identify coral, algae or sand, you can help scientists get as much information as possible about the Great Barrier Reef.

### **Kids putting stamp on Barrier Reef's future**

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5604680/kids-putting-stamp-on-barrier-reefs-future/?cs=9680>

### **ABC articles on the GBR**

View several articles at this link:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/topic/great-barrier-reef>

## Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

**Wanted!** People with IT skills willing to volunteer at our device help desk once every few months. Are you a whiz at trouble-shooting mobile phone, tablet and laptop problems? Do you know how to save data from a dying phone, change settings, speed up slow laptops or investigate problems booting up? Have you got good people skills? If you or someone you know fits this description please get in touch via FB messenger [Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga](#) or email [repaircafeaw@gmail.com.au](mailto:repaircafeaw@gmail.com.au). We'd love to hear from you!

## Amazing insects

[Wasps, aphids and ants: the other honey makers](#)

Honey might be synonymous with bees, but they're not the only insects that come up with the goods.

## Poo-eating dung beetles worth a billion dollars a year to our economy

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-09-12/dung-beetles-produce-economic-turnover-for-agriculture-industry/10231166>

## Spotty bee!

This bee is native to Australia. It's a male *Thyreus caeruleopunctatus* and is one of the few native 'cuckoo' bees: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10156040121493843&id=142468583842](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10156040121493843&id=142468583842)

## Thankyou

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Next one will be coming out on October 24<sup>th</sup>

## WATCH meetings

We meet every second month, usually in central Albury, and offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The final meeting for 2018 will be at 6pm on Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Website

Please check our website: [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

## Facebook

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

**WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

*Warm regards, Jenny Davies*