

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 19.12.18

COP24

[Famed naturalist David Attenborough warns world leaders human civilisation could collapse](#)

British broadcaster and environmentalist David Attenborough has urged world leaders, meeting in Poland to agree ways to limit global warming, to get on and tackle “our greatest threat in thousands of years”.

What was agreed at COP24 in Poland and why did it take so long?

Fractious UN climate change talks [ended with a deal](#) on putting the Paris agreement into practice – but much else left unresolved: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/16/what-was-agreed-at-cop24-in-poland-and-why-did-it-take-so-long?>

Australia back with laggards in climate ranking – ACF

The annual Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) has been released at COP 24 in Poland. The CCPI ranks 56 countries and the EU, which make up 90% of global emissions. It’s no surprise that Australia is ranked way back with the worst laggards. ACF’s media release on the CCPI is here:

https://www.acf.org.au/australia_back_with_laggards_in_climate_ranking

Australia only nation to join US at pro-coal event at COP24 climate talks

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/11/australia-only-nation-to-join-us-at-pro-coal-event-at-cop24-climate-talks>

Out of the mouths of babes....

Kids show leadership

‘Congratulations to students on the Border leading a big school walk out for climate action. The Prime Minister should be rattled to be so shown up by people who don’t even have a vote but who are taking science seriously.’ A great letter from Father Peter MacLeod Miller:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=491723387902735&id=240101943064882

Here are some photos of the Albury-Wodonga student protest for Climate Action. It’s reassuring that our young people are leading the way! A group of these young people met with Sussan Ley on 18th December. https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2372759969418708&id=1628658647162181

Students strike against climate change, some tell of suspension risk

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5785957/students-strike-against-climate-change-some-tell-of-suspension-risk/?cs=9680>

Interview on The Project

Watch this interview with 14-year-old Jean Hinchliffe. Such an articulate passionate 14 year old!

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10155954872528441&id=107787018440

'I don't believe that': how a 17-year-old student stole the show on Q&A

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/i-don-t-believe-that-how-a-17-year-old-student-stole-the-show-on-q-and-a-20181204-p50jzq.html>

SMH cartoon by Cathy Wilcox

<https://m.facebook.com/sydneymorningherald/photos/a.10150144263581264/10157170188371264/?type=3&source=48>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

‘Funeral for our future’ protest, Saturday 1 December

This symbolic funeral was to demand action to stop the Adani coal mine and transition from fossil fuels. Kate Auty, Professorial Fellow at University of Melbourne & Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (ACT) was our main speaker. And Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller "officiated" at the service. About 200 people attended. The Border Mail on Facebook has covered the event including 3 photos: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5788709/funeral-hosted-in-albury-amid-concerns-for-environment/?cs=9680>

Bob Brown on the march....

if work starts on the Carmichael mine, Bob Brown is organising a cavalcade from Hobart to central Queensland to peacefully obstruct the mine. Albury is on the draft itinerary for an overnight stop and a rally. We will keep you posted!

http://www.bobbrown.org.au/stopadaniconvoy_signup?recruiter_id=304726

Galilee Basin mine plans understated water impact, government report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/15/galilee-mine-plans-understated-water-impact-government-report-says?>

Adani faces water hurdles - RN Breakfast

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/adani-faces-water-hurdles/10588310>

Help stop coal mining in the Galilee Basin - Environmental Defenders Office Queensland (EDO Qld)

https://www.edoqld.org.au/help_stop_coal_mining_in_the_galilee_basin?f

Facebook

For photos and videos of SAAW actions and to be kept abreast of breaking news, go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

WATCH news

Letters to the editor

If you are not a subscriber to the Border Mail, you will be unable to read these letters. But rest assured they are terrific! And great that WATCH members continue to be active and speak out in this way.

Here's one from Lauriston Muirhead:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5789149/you-say-appalling-that-our-kids-care-more-than-our-leaders/?cs=9940>

Two letters in one day from Lizette Salmon and Graham Parton:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5776417/you-say-its-time-to-stop-coal-mine-and-farming-alone-cannot-utilise-water/?cs=9940>

A letter from Bruce Key, second one down. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5801865/you-say-have-a-heart-and-let-this-family-stay/?cs=9940>

And one from Joy Grinham, second one down: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5812436/you-say-a-strangers-wonderful-gift-the-real-spirit-of-xmas/?cs=9940>

And there was a wonderful editorial in the Border Mail on December 5th entitled 'Staring into the abyss of climate change'.

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>

Many thanks to Karen Retra for her continuing commitment to the maintenance of this invaluable resource!

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2018-12/>

January <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-01/>

Selected events

Christmas Dinner with the Community, Tuesday Dec 25, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm, St Stephen's Uniting Church, Wodonga

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/christmas-dinner-with-the-community-on-25-12-2018/>

Multicultural Harvest Breakfast, Friday January 4, 8 - 11am, Bhutanese Community Farm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/multicultural-harvest-breakfast/>

Murray Islands Bushcrafts, January 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 9 - 11am

Two different locations. Check Ecoportal for details.

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/murray-islands-bushcrafts/>

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website <http://ecoportal.net.au/articles/>. It is a wonderful way to connect with people who have similar conservation and environmental values.

After 7 years of being the volunteer coordinator of the Living Lightly column, Karen Bowley is passing the baton to Lauren Salathiel. Thank you Lauren and we look forward to the Living Lightly article legacy continuing into the future. If you have a 380 word article you'd like to share, please send it to Lauren at l.salathiel@gmail.com

And many thanks, Karen, for your hard work over the years in this important role. Your contribution has been much appreciated!

Recent articles

[Waste-Wise Party](#) By Caroline Lavoie, Werribee River Association and Australian Conservation Foundation

[Sustainable Living Festival Wrap-Up](#) By Renate Griese, Events Officer, AlburyCity

[StopAdani School Strike and Funeral for our Future](#) By Lizette Salmon, StopAdani Albury-Wodonga

[Interpretation](#) By Anne Stelling, Facilitator, Wodonga Urban Landcare Network

Climate updates

Climate change will hit Australia harder than rest of world, study shows

Science agency the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology predict temperature rises of up to 5.1c in Australia by 2090 in their most comprehensive forecast yet.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/26/climate-change-will-hit-australia-harder-than-rest-of-world-study-shows?C>

East Antarctica glacial stronghold melting as seas warm

Note paragraph #2: "long-term raise global sea level by tens of metres":

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/11/east-antarctica-glacial-stronghold-melting-amid-climate-change>

Australia's emissions continue to climb, reaching seven-year highs

The federal government released its quarterly emission report the bizarre claim that “Australia remains well on track to beat its 2020 emissions reduction target”— despite the fact that Australia’s emissions increased 0.6 per cent in the year to June 2018

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-emissions-continue-to-climb-reaching-seven-year-highs-20181130-p50jd5.html?>

Climate change denial is delusion, and the biggest threat to human survival

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-07/climate-change-denialism-holocaust-david-attenborough-coal/10585744?f>

Coal, coal, coal and soaring emissions – as a Liberal I have had enough

There are still some Liberals willing to be brave on climate. Oliver Yates speaks out:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/03/coal-coal-coal-and-soaring-emissions-as-a-liberal-i-have-had-enough>

And here's more in this video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHi8RHHwwWY>

Energy news from SA

[Hope grows for solar gardens, as report identifies major savings for “locked out” consumers](#)

Australia could see “solar gardens” begin to sprout as early as 2019, after a major report found shared solar model not only feasible, but able to knock up to \$370 a year off cost of electricity for consumers “locked out” of rooftop PV.

[The verdict is in: renewables reduce energy prices \(yes, even in South Australia\)](#)

South Australia's energy prices have gone up as more renewables entered the market – but prices would have gone up even more without them.

Whyalla goes greener with \$145m solar greenhouse, as Gupta effect grows

https://reneweconomy.com.au/whyalla-goes-greener-with-145m-solar-greenhouse-as-gupta-effect-grows-93958/?utm_source=RE+Daily+Newsletter&

Biodiversity

[The small patch of bush over your back fence might be key to a species' survival](#)

Expanding cities and farmland have created many small, often isolated patches of vegetation. Long seen as having limited ecological value, a new study shows these are vital for endangered species.

[Australia named as one of the world's worst performers on biodiversity](#)

Australia has been named as one of the worst performers among a group of 100 nations due to the absence of biodiversity measures in our climate change commitments, according to a new report by WWF.

Wild Pollinator Count

Results are in from the 2018 Spring Wild Pollinator Count! 600 people participated in the count and they spotted more than 6700 insects across 182 different locations around Australia. [Spring 2018: Results are in!](#)

Repair Café award

Repair Café Albury Wodonga was honoured to represent Repair Cafe Perth at the recent prestigious Banksia Environmental Awards in Melbourne. They couldn't make the trip over, instead asking our coordinator, Lizette Salmon, to present on their behalf.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2289067044446390&id=1088817197804720

Some great images!

Warty hammer orchids are sexual deceivers

We love the photos and images in this article, as well as the intriguing insights into the lives of these orchids and wasps! <https://theconversation.com/warty-hammer-orchids-are-sexual-deceivers-107805>

Comic explainer: forest giants house thousands of animals

Feast your eyes on this stunning visual explainer on [hollow-bearing trees](#).

Thankyou!

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter during 2018 including those who regularly send links, write *Living Lightly* articles or letters to the editor. They are all much appreciated. The first newsletter of 2019 will be coming out on January 23rd. And finally, many thanks to Karen Retra for using her technical skills to ensure the newsletter is sent out promptly via Mailchimp.

Wishing all our supporters a safe and peaceful festive season.

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