

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.2.19

WATCH news

Publicity

January was declared Albury's hottest month ever by the Bureau of Meteorology WATCH obtained more than 60 reports from 30 citizen scientists describing impacts of this heat on plants, animals, people and infrastructure. This led to a media release about stressed trees and a story in *The Border Mail* on Saturday 2 February. Well done to Lizette Salmon and Paul Scannell.

Here are links to the [article](#) and [database of observations](#).

Chair of WATCH to run as Labor candidate for Albury in the NSW State election

WATCH has been strongly non partisan since inception, but occasionally committee members have aligned themselves to particular politicians or parties. WATCH Chair, Lauriston Muirhead, had considered running as an independent in previous elections, but felt his chances would be stronger if he was connected to a party. He's therefore thrown his hat in the ring as the ALP candidate in the seat of Albury, making it clear that climate change is a major priority, "We've got fires in Northern NSW now, we have a longer fire season, we've got deeper droughts, longer droughts and more frequent droughts," he told *The Border Mail*, stressing "all levels of government have to be working on solutions to combat its impacts". For details see:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5909282/climate-is-right-for-a-new-broom-in-albury/?cs=9681>

WATCH meetings

During 2019, WATCH meetings will occur quarterly, usually in central Albury, and will offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The first meeting for the year will be at 6pm on Tuesday March 19th, Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

Good news!

Rocky Hill mine plans quashed in Land and Environment Court

Amazing news from the good folks of Gloucester and EDO NSW: they won their case with the Chief Judge refusing the Rocky Hill coal mine on climate grounds! It's a landmark legal ruling and a first in Australia but also potentially world-wide.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-08/rocky-hill-mine-plans-quashed-in-nsw-court/10792902>

And yet...

Can you be shocked but not surprised at the same time?!

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/15/emissions-reduction-fund-could-be-used-to-upgrade-40-year-old-coal-fired-power-plant>

What would kids know?

Albury-Wodonga School Strike 4 Climate, 1-3pm, Friday 15th March, QE2 Square, Albury

The first national school strike for climate action was a great success, garnering significant media attention. This second strike will be 1-3pm on Friday 15th March at QEII Square, with requests for adults to attend in solidarity. If you have or know school age children, please talk to them about the Adani disaster and encourage their participation. For further details contact Jodie: jodief74@gmail.com

Albury-Wodonga School Strike 4 Climate

<https://m.facebook.com/events/342306743033532?>

Greta Thunberg's TED talk

Take a few minutes to listen to what this truly remarkable 16-year-old has to say:

https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_school_strike_for_climate_save_the_world_by_changing_the_rules?

Jimmy Kimmel had a group of kids explain climate change to Trump

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/jimmy-kimmel-had-group-kids-183959018.html>

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. If you have a 380 word article you'd like to share, please send it to Lauren Salathiel at l.salathiel@gmail.com

Recent articles

[A Helping Hand for Thirsty Wildlife](#) by Di Pritchard

[Power and knowledge is not enough, we need to act!](#) By Gill Baker

[World Wetlands Day](#) By Tess Middleton

[Travelling Sustainably in Japan](#) By Julianna Toth

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

'Bigger than Franklin': Bob Brown to lead anti-Adani road convoy

Bob Brown is organising an anti-Adani convoy from Tasmania to the Galilee Basin. It departs Hobart on 17th April, with Albury-Wodonga en route and over 1700 participants signed up. We'll keep you posted re arrival date and accompanying fan-fare. https://www.bobbrown.org.au/stopadaniconvoy_signup

We held more big letters walks

Big letters walks were held in Wodonga on 19th January and Albury on 2nd February. An article in *The Border Mail* about the Wodonga walk was syndicated in at least 14 newspapers across Australia!

For details see: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5858844/drought-heat-and-fish-kills-all-reasons-to-stop-adani-coal-mine/?>

Join the fun at our next big letters walk – 10am Saturday 2 March, Albury

Come join our next big letters walk. Please contact Les for details: leslangmead@gmail.com

Knitting Nannas came back with a vengeance

Knitting Nannas have picked up their needles, revamped their signage and are back in QEII Square on a Thursday, 12.30 pm for February, with plans to relocate outside Greg Aplin's office in March.

We're supporting StopAdani Wagga Wagga

Wagga's keen to start a StopAdani group and has been liaising with us for advice. We'll send reps to their inaugural meeting and provide props and people-power for their climate march on 9 March -10.30am start at Wagga Railway Station, Station Place.

What else?

Please contact Jenni Huber to be put on the phone roster to contact Sussan Ley: jenniferruthuber@gmail.com

If you'd like a StopAdani yard sign please contact Tracey: tesesler@gmail.com

If you oppose the mine, please write a letter to the editor of under 200 words and email to: letters@bordermail.com.au

Next meeting, 6pm, Thursday 7 March

Come to our next meeting at the Sustainable Activity Centre on the Causeway– please RSVP to Tracey: tesesler@gmail.com

Facebook To keep abreast of breaking news, please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

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>

February <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-02/>

March <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-03/>

Selected events

Fair Food Farmers and Followers Annual Gathering, Sun Feb 24, 9:30 am, Stanley Memorial Hall

Lizette Salmon will give a brief talk on the WATCH heatwaves database at this event:

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/fair-food-farmers-and-followers-annual-gathering/>

North East Fair Food Farmers and Followers comes to Stanley

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5902577/all-fair-food-roads-leading-to-stanley-for-a-third-annual-gritty-gathering/>

Kiewa Explorer Walk 'n Talk, Wednesday March 13, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Kiewa River Parklands

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/birds-and-bugs-by-the-river-2/>

Renewable energy highlights

Totally Renewable Yackandandah solar energy project reaches big landmark

In less than 18 months, Yackandandah homes have generated solar energy that would have been able to run the MCG light towers for almost three years. <http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/totally-renewable-yackandandah-solar-energy-project-reaches-big-landmark/>

Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap

Visit our webpage for roadmap project details, catch up on previous newsletters and to view an inspiring video capturing the community forums held last year: <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-roadmap/hume-renewable-energy-roadmap>

Plasticwise Yackandandah's Dish Pig

The Dish Pig is a mobile wash station and a public sculpture, designed to assist the community to run low waste events by reducing the amount of disposable items that we use, whilst raising general community awareness about waste and sustainable living. The Dish Pig is "as much as we can" made out replicable, transportable, and will be available for loan to community groups and Councils across the Ovens Murray region. Plasticwise Yackandandah is looking for additional partners to fund the build the Dish Pig before the end of this financial year. For further details please contact Cecile Legrand cecile.legrand@gatewayhealth.org.au or Francesca Ciantar francesca@ciantarlegal.com Ph: 0421 905 868.

Extinction Rebellion

The video below gives us a greater insight into the Extinction Rebellion movement in the UK.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2018/nov/22/we-cant-get-arrested-quick-enough-life-inside-extinction-rebellion-video>

And for information about actions in Australia, please go to this link: <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/ausrebellion>

Climate updates

Astounded!

Former NSW Fire and Rescue chief unloads on politicians over climate change inaction

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/astounded-former-fire-chief-unloads-on-politicians-over-climate-change-inaction-20190204-p50v10.html?>

Tasmania is burning

Richard Flanagan expresses his opinion: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/05/tasmania-is-burning-the-climate-disaster-future-has-arrived-while-those-in-power-laugh-at-us?>

Jacinda Ardern tells world leaders they have nothing to fear from acting on climate change

What a legend! <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-23/jacinda-ardern-and-attenborough-issue-climate-change-warning/10738994?>

Australia's record on emissions and sustainability condemned by OECD review

Paris agreement target will not be met without changes to policy and threatened species at risk unless funding increased: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/30/australias-record-on-emissions-and-sustainability-condemned-by-oecd-review>

Obesity, poor nutrition, climate change

The three biggest threats to humanity, says Lancet report

<https://www.theage.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/the-three-biggest-threats-to-humanity-revealed-in-lancet-report-20190128-p50u1x.html>

More on Adani

Adani coal terminal releases more water into wetlands near Abbot Point port

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-07/adani-coal-terminal-releases-water-wetlands-near-abbot-point/10791692?>

Is your super Adani's last chance?

A search of Australian Super's investments has shockingly revealed that it holds \$9 million worth of shares in *Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd* - one of the Adani group of companies.

Your super fund could be doing the same thing. [Contact your super fund today and demand it reveals any investment in Adani shares!](#)

Looking after our wildlife

Native bees are powerful pollinators, and there's a simple way to help them

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-01-29/merits-of-native-bees-can-they-save-us/10749696?>

How you can help avoid the insect apocalypse

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/science/2019/02/12/how-you-can-help-avoid-the-insect-apocalypse/?>

Thinking outside the box - CSU News

<http://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/environmental-sciences/thinking-outside-the-box?>

How can a humble backyard gardener counter the massive massacre of our wildlife?

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/how-can-a-humble-backyard-gardener-counter-the-massive-massacre-of-our-wildlife-20190110-h19x4v.html?>

And for a real treat...

Maratus

We can recommend this video in Iview: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/maratus>

Thankyou!

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter including those who regularly send links, write *Living Lightly* articles or letters to the editor. They are all much appreciated. Next newsletter is due out on March 20th.

Facebook

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

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies