

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 24.7.19

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Let's stop GHD from working with Adani

Engineering firm GHD is conducting the engineering design for Adani's dirty coal mine. Campaigners have been urging GHD to join the 50 major companies that have [refused to work with Adani](#), stating GHD's reputation as an organisation with a 'commitment to sustainable development' is on the line. StopAdani Albury-Wodonga has written to the manager of Wodonga's GHD, but is yet to receive a reply. Be sure to read the next edition of WATCHWORD to hear what happens next. In the meantime please sign the ACF petition and tell GHD not to work with Adani - https://www.acf.org.au/adani_ghd

StopAdani Network Assembly

SAAW members Jenni Huber and Vivien Chivers recently attended the Stop Adani Network Assembly in Melbourne where people from around Australia gathered to discuss next steps to prevent the opening of the Adani mega mine and transition to a renewable economy. Representatives from SchoolStrike4Climate asked for support to make their 20 September action a global climate strike involving all sectors of the community.

Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nannas for Renewables meet each Thursday, 12.30 to 1.30 in QEII Square, Dean St, Albury, where they chat to people in the street about anything from energy efficiency, government and solar subsidies, draught-proofing to gardening. Bring a chair, or just drop by to say hi.

Next meeting

Next meeting will be at 6pm, 1 August at the Sustainable Activity Centre. To keep abreast of breaking news, please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>
For further information and to be added to our email list, please contact Jenni Huber jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com

WATCH news

'Earth Canvas' regenerative farming workshop

WATCH member Jill Coghlan attended an Earth Canvas workshop on July 8th. An educator, farmer and artist presented on regenerative farming to 80 attendees at Gill Sanbrook's property "Bibbaringa", Bowna. Federal Minister for Environment Sussan Ley attended and asked the audience what they thought regenerative agriculture could do for Australia. Number 1 was to draw down carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the soil. For more information about Earth Canvas's events and workshops, please visit www.earthcanvas.com.au For further details please contact Jill Coghlan: eurimbla@live.com.au

Community action on climate change

The Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee of the Parliament Victoria is conducting an Inquiry into community action on climate change. The Committee contacted WATCH and is very interested in hearing from us.

Letters to the editor

A great letter from Graham Parton was published in the Border Mail on June 28th re the black throated finch and other issues: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6241739/your-say-libs-and-nats-just-play-politics-when-pretending-to-care/?>

Bobbi McKibbin wrote a passionate piece on lack of action on climate change which was published on June 22nd: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6229834/your-say-for-too-long-we-have-done-too-little-on-climate-change/?cs=9940>

Lizette Salmon expressed her concern at recent statements by new Environment Minister Sussan Ley in a letter which appeared in the BM on June 20th: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6223545/your-say-my-thanks-to-hospital-staff-and-fellow-patients/?cs=9940>

Our Federal representatives

Sussan Ley, Member for Farrer

A media release from newly appointed Environment Minister Ley confirmed the threatened species status of Leadbeater's possum plus several other animals:

<https://minister.environment.gov.au/ley/news/2019/state-emblem-national-priority-leadbeaters-possum>

In this interview on ABC radio, Sussan Ley said that feral cats are the biggest environmental problem in Australia. No mention was made of climate change by Ms Ley or the interviewer Sabra Lane

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/communities-in-northern-murray-darling-basin-on-their-knees/11239820?>

Meanwhile, we can't believe Sussan Ley made these statements about councils. Anyone have the time for a letter to the editor? <https://thewest.com.au/politics/federal-politics/environment-minister-sussan-ley-tells-mayors-to-stay-out-of-climate-change-ng-b881263203z>

Helen Haines, Member for Indi

It might seem ambitious for an incoming House of Representatives crossbencher to be talking about changing the conversation about power in Australia, but Helen Haines is determined to try:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/29/kingmaker-or-not-the-new-member-for-indi-is-determined-to-shift-the-dial-in-canberra?>

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=fb>

July <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-07/>

August <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-08/>

Selected events

National Tree Day, Sunday 28th July

Check Ecoportal for details of events at Albury, Baranduda, Wangaratta and Willow Park, Wodonga.

Energy Efficiency Workshops. Session 1, Monday August 5th, Uniting Church, Benalla, 7:30 - 9:30pm

Organised by Renewable Energy Benalla:

<https://www.reb.org.au/news/2019-reduce-13-building-efficiency-workshops-session-1-monday-august-5>

'2040' – Thursday August 22nd, 6.30pm, Regent Cinema, Albury

Another chance to see this informative movie:

<https://buy.villagecinemas.com.au/tickets?cinemaid=027&sessionid=293778>

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

[Solar hot water](#) By Matthew Charles-Jones, Totally Renewable Yackandandah

[Fantastic fungi](#) By Karen Bowley, Wooragee Landcare and WATCH

[Plant it and they will come](#) By Lizette Salmon, Gardens for Wildlife Albury-Wodonga project officer

[Wooragee Landcare marks 30 years](#) By Karen Bowley, Member of Wooragee Landcare and WATCH

Climate emergency

Conservative Wagga surprises with climate emergency declaration

28 local government areas have made a similar declaration – but never before in a place such as Wagga:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/20/brave-or-naive-conservative-wagga-surprises-with-climate-emergency-declaration?>

Sydney declares a climate emergency

What does that mean in practice? A good summary with links

<https://theconversation.com/sydney-declares-a-climate-emergency-what-does-that-mean-in-practice-119387?>

Melbourne declares a climate emergency

The City of Melbourne has joined an international movement declaring a climate emergency.

<https://www.3aw.com.au/melbourne-declares-a-climate-emergency-but-the-lord-mayor-is-unclear-on-the-details/>

Climate crisis– stories from around the globe

'Precipitous' fall in Antarctic sea ice since 2014 revealed

The plunge is far faster than in the Arctic and may lead to more global heating:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/01/precipitous-fall-in-antarctic-sea-ice-revealed?>

Pollution, anthrax - even nuclear waste - could be released by global warming

The permafrost – up until now, permanently frozen land and soil – is thawing out, and revealing its hidden secrets.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20190612-the-poisons-released-by-melting-arctic-ice>

Chennai's the latest city to have almost run out of water

While India faces its worst long-term water crisis in its history as demand outstrips supply, its story is one that is

becoming increasingly common in rapidly urbanising countries around the globe. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-22/chennais-telling-the-globe-a-story-about-water-scarcity/11229084?>

Himalayan glacier melting doubled since 2000, spy satellites show

The accelerating losses indicate a “devastating” future for the region, upon which a billion people depend for regular

water. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/19/himalayan-glacier-melting-doubled-since-2000-scientists-reveal?>

The pressure mounts...

David Attenborough says it's 'extraordinary' climate deniers are in power in Australia

David Attenborough has highlighted Australia as an “extraordinary” example of a country where people in power remained climate change deniers despite the country facing some of the worst effects of global

heating. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jul/10/david-attenborough-says-its-extraordinary-climate-deniers-are-in-power-in-australia?>

Faith leaders push PM to act on climate

More than 150 religious leaders issued an open letter to Scott Morrison, calling on the prime minister to make

addressing climate change his number one priority. <https://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/faith-leaders-push-pm-to-act-on-climate/news-story/b2a2292905759c9b1f6b5e4c113ca3fd>

Defence lacks 'overarching strategy' to deal with climate change conflict

Australia's military has warned of a possible influx of climate refugees and an increased potential for conflict because of the effects of climate change.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-15/defence-lacks-overarching-strategy-for-climate-change-conflict/11304954>

Citizen science

Wanted: Community help reporting mass fish kills in the Murray Darling Basin

A Charles Sturt University researcher, Dr Jonathon Howard, is asking communities and landholders in the Murray Darling Basin to get involved in reporting major fish deaths around the Basin.

<https://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/wanted-community-help-reporting-mass-fish-kills-in-the-murray-darling-basin?>

Click here for details: <https://inlandriversnetwork.org/fish-kill-map-mdb/>

Wild Pollinator Count survey

We are contributing to research on biodiversity citizen science projects, run by colleagues in Germany. If you have ever participated in one of Wild Pollinator Counts, please consider answering this short survey about your experiences. We will share results here when they become available.

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/2019/07/11/survey-citizen-science-research/?>

Wildlife matters

Extinction Nation – ABC Four Corners

A recent Four Corners interview with Environment Minister Sussan Ley failed to ask some of the more critical questions. <https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/extinction-nation-four-corners-program-raises-environmental-questions,12847>

Landcare legacy at risk as volunteers retire, young people not taking their place

Landcare Australia turns 30 this year, but one of its original members fears its impact will wane as volunteers retire or cut back their involvement. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-15/landcare-legacy-at-risk-young-people-not-volunteering/11209730?>

Toondah Harbour — Act for birds

Join us in calling on Queensland Premier Palaszczuk to please rule out any change to the boundaries of the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland to facilitate inappropriate development at Toondah Harbour. <https://www.actforbirds.org/toondah>

Good news stories in our region

Barnawartha biodiesel plant bounces back to life

Australia's largest renewable biodiesel producer has restarted operations in north-east Victoria just three years after it was driven to closure. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-17/biodiesel-bounces-back-as-barnawartha-plant-reopens/11318966?>

Major solar investment at Wodonga TAFE to benefit students and the community

Next month Wodonga TAFE will begin the process of installing 600 kilowatts of rooftop solar photovoltaic panels across its McKoy Street, TAFESpace and Logic Centre campuses. <https://www.wodongatafe.edu.au/Whats-On/News/ArtMID/402/ArticleID/223/Major-solar-investment-at-Wodonga-TAFE-to-benefit-students-and-the-community?>

Bright future ahead for the Border's Sustainable Activity Centre

The Sustainable Activity Centre Cohort Inc. has now been established. As a not-for-profit incorporated organisations SACC Inc is now able to apply for government grants and sponsorship. For details please contact: admin@sustainableactivitycentre.com.au

Albury Council commits to phasing out single use plastic by 2023

Albury and Wodonga councils have committed to "progressively reducing" single use plastics by 2023. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6266467/single-use-plastic-not-so-fantastic-in-albury/?>

Congratulations!

Remarkable volunteer wins Eagle award

Wodonga's Garry Knight has been creating, nurturing and protecting wildlife habitat at local parks and reserves for years, spending countless hours planting, weeding, watering, monitoring nestboxes and managing litter. He is a worthy recipient of Wodonga Council's Eagle award.

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 21st August.

Facebook

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

WATCH meetings

WATCH meetings occur every quarter, usually in central Albury. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday September 24th. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH website: www.watch.id.au

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies