

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 21.8.19

### WATCH news

#### **Global Strike for Climate, Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 11am – 1.00pm, QE2 Square, Albury**

Border students will once again strike for climate change when the third worldwide School Strike 4 Climate rally is held next month. The strike at QEII Square Albury will see students call on local MP and environment minister Sussan Ley to take action on climate change. Students can register for the event on [Facebook](#). Please lock the date in your diary. The student organisers want loads of adults along in support and are planning a HUGE turn out.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6335169/border-students-to-join-global-climate-strike/?cs=9680>

#### **Community action on climate change**

WATCH convenor Lizette Salmon has drafted a submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into community action on climate change. Please note this is open to anyone who would like to make a submission. The deadline for submissions is 26 August. Details here: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc-la/inquiries/inquiry/967>

#### **For interested climate letter-writers**

Lizette crunched the 2018 data for climate-related letters to the editor in The Border Mail, plus preliminary data for 2019. It appears that sceptics were busier than usual and accepters were quieter. This seems to be due to six new people joining the team of local deniers. Hopefully this is an encouragement for us all to keep writing!

#### **WATCH meetings**

WATCH meetings occur every quarter, usually in central Albury. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au)

### Letters to the editor

Another bumper month for letters in The Border Mail with five letters all up. Well done to David Sloane and Lauriston Muirhead for their letters published in the BM on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Lauriston mentioned the David Attenborough documentary and urged everyone to watch it. David Sloane highlighted Pacific islands like Tuvalu facing devastating rising sea levels: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6322284/your-say-if-you-disagree-with-sir-david-you-are-skating-on-thin-ice/?cs=9940>

On Monday 5 August, Lizette congratulated Environment Minister Sussan Ley for publicly acknowledging that climate change is the biggest threat to the Great Barrier Reef but stated 'the Coalition needs to admit that emissions from coal-burning are the greatest driver of climate change':

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6307114/your-say-well-done-on-trying-to-decriminalise-abortion/?cs=9940>

Well done to David Sloane for his second letter on July 30<sup>th</sup> re Sussan Ley wanting local councils to stay out of climate action. Jill Coghlan also had a letter published on the same issue:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6297411/your-say-if-pollies-wont-lead-the-way-on-climate-the-people-will/?cs=9940>

### **#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)**

#### **Next meeting, 6pm, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Sustainable Activity Centre SAC**

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

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

#### **GHD**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, three SAAW members paid a visit to the Wodonga office of GHD (the firm awarded the engineering design contract for the Adani coal mine), urging them to encourage head office executives to withdraw their support for Adani. The Manager was not able to meet them and stated in a follow-up email that he was "not in a position to provide further comment about Adani" and that 'our Wodonga offices are not involved with the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine project.'

## Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nannas for Renewables meet each Thursday, 12.30-1.30pm in QEII Square, Dean St, Albury, Bring a chair, or just drop by to say hi.

## Adani beware: coal is on the road to becoming completely uninsurable

<https://theconversation.com/adani-beware-coal-is-on-the-road-to-becoming-completely-uninsurable-121552?>

For further information and to receive the StopAdani Albury-Wodonga newsletter, please contact Jenni Huber [jenniferruthuber@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferruthuber@gmail.com)

## Our local polities

WATCH will be seeking meetings with Sussan Ley and Justin Clancy in the near future. In the meantime, here are some updates:

### Sussan Ley, Member for Farrer

In response to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's [climate change position](#), Sussan Ley has stated that "climate change is the biggest threat to the reef". However, after a recent visit, Ms Ley stated 'The Great Barrier Reef is not dead, is not dying and is not even on life support.' (The Australian, 14 August) <http://www.ladbible.com/news/politics-great-barrier-reef-authority-stands-up-to-the-australian-government-20190724>

### Helen Haines, Member for Indi

Three cheers to Helen Haines for emphasising our climate crisis during her maiden speech on August 1st: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6305312/a-powerful-orange-glow-indi-mps-first-speech-to-parliament/>

### Justin Clancy, member for Albury

In a recent article in the Border Mail, Justin Clancy says climate change is not an emergency. We beg to disagree. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6312560/climate-change-is-not-a-state-of-emergency-according-to-mp/>

## Congratulations to Indigo Shire!

### Indigo Shire Council declares a climate emergency

Indigo Shire Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency is an example of local leadership on a global issue. <https://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Latest-news/Indigo-Shire-taking-a-lead-in-addressing-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>

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

**September** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-09/>

## 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](mailto:l.salathiel@gmail.com)

### Recent articles

[Sustainability alliance celebrates 10 years](#) By Gill Baker, Wangaratta Sustainability Network

[Make a carbon leap for humankind](#) by Les Langmead

[Riding and thinking](#) By Sue Brunskill

[Riding towards freedom](#) By Chris McGorlick

## Pacific Islands Forum

### Call for Australia's Pacific membership to be suspended over coal

Australia's membership of the Pacific Islands Forum should be "urgently reviewed" for possible sanctions or suspension over the Morrison government's pro-coal stance, says Anote Tong, a former president of Kiribati. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/call-for-australia-s-pacific-membership-to-be-suspended-over-coal-20190817-p52i3b.html?>

### Pacific Island nations will no longer stand for Australia's inaction on climate change

The [Pacific Islands Forum](#) meeting in Tuvalu this week has ended in open division over climate change. Australia ensured its official communique [watered down](#) commitments to respond to climate change, gaining a hollow victory. <https://theconversation.com/pacific-island-nations-will-no-longer-stand-for-australias-inaction-on-climate-change-121976?>

### Tuvalu's PM says tears were shed during Pacific Island Forum - video

Tuvalu's Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga admitted the meeting took an emotional toll on the Prime Minister of Tonga during a presentation by two young Pacific Climate Warriors. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-16/tuvalus-pm-says-tears-were-shed-during-pacific-meeting/11420288>

## Climate change and land use

### Australian government brushes off UN's urgent climate warning

The federal emissions reduction minister has defended Australia's land management practices after a new United Nations climate change report called for changes in the way the world produces and consumes food. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australian-government-brushes-off-un-s-urgent-climate-warning>

### IPCC report encourages a move to plant-based diets, so how sustainable is Australian meat?

The IPCC report suggests meat-eaters should think about where their protein came from: How was it raised? What did it eat and where did that food come from? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-10/ipcc-recommends-eating-less-meat-but-australian-farms-different/11398884?>

### Gerogery regenerative farmers Jill and Ian Coghlan relish chance to meet artist Idris Murphy for Earth Canvas project

Gerogery beef producers Ian and Jill Coghlan were awakened to the possibilities of regenerative farming three years ago. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6330093/art-imitates-love-of-land-in-this-vision-from-paddock-to-palette/?> For more information on Earth Canvas go to the [Earth Canvas website](#)

## Climate crisis – stories of fire and ice

### 'Ecological grief': Greenland residents traumatised by climate emergency

Islanders are struggling to reconcile impact of global heating with traditional way of life <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/12/greenland-residents-traumatised-by-climate-emergency?>

### The glaciers of Iceland seemed eternal. Now a country mourns their loss

The evidence of Earth's warming continues: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/14/glaciers-iceland-country-loss-plaque-climate-crisis>

### The Arctic is on fire, and might be creating a vicious climate 'feedback loop'

The worst Arctic wildfire season in recent history is releasing unprecedented emissions that feed into climate change, creating the conditions for more fires. [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/qv7g3m/the-arctic-is-on-fire-and-it-might-be-creating-a-vicious-climate-feedback-loop?](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/qv7g3m/the-arctic-is-on-fire-and-it-might-be-creating-a-vicious-climate-feedback-loop?)

### 2,000 years of records show it's getting hotter, faster

New reconstructions of Earth's temperature over the past 2,000 years, published in [Nature Geoscience](#), highlight the astonishing rate of the recent widespread warming of our planet. <https://theconversation.com/2-000-years-of-records-show-its-getting-hotter-faster-120882?>

## Wildlife matters

### Gas plant construction makes WA history by moving 30,000 native animals to safety

Environment contractors who relocated 30,000 animals during the construction of the Wheatstone LNG plant in Western Australia have called on other mining companies to take a similar approach to protecting native fauna. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/26/gas-plant-construction-makes-wa-history-by-moving-30000-native-animals-to-safety?>

## **Sloane's froglet habitat rehabilitation to revive endangered populations - ABC News**

A tiny endangered frog found in Murray-Darling Basin floodplains in New South Wales is having its habitat rehabilitated to help revive the species.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-28/national-tree-day-planting-rehabilitates-endangered-frog-habitat/11354262?>

## **Black Finch Project: the anti-Adani art campaign – in pictures**

More than 1,400 art works featuring the endangered black-throated finch have been sent to Australian politicians in protest against the Carmichael coalmine in Queensland.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2019/jul/26/black-finch-project-the-anti-adani-art-campaign-in-pictures?>

## **Good news stories**

### **The biggest climate victories of 2018**

Too often, we lose sight of the incredible work that people are doing to drastically change our economies and evolve to a more sustainable way of living. Here are some examples:

<https://thenewclimate.com/2019/01/14/the-biggest-climate-victories-of-2018/?>

### **Renewable Albury Wodonga - RAW Energy**

The first of 10 4kW systems are being installed on social housing in Wodonga. This project is in partnership with *BeyondHousing*. More details here:

[https://m.facebook.com/story/graphql\\_permalink/?graphql\\_id=UzpfSTE2Mjg3NDUxMDczNTgyNzg6MjQ4MDU0MDQ1ODg0NTQwMQ%3D%3D](https://m.facebook.com/story/graphql_permalink/?graphql_id=UzpfSTE2Mjg3NDUxMDczNTgyNzg6MjQ4MDU0MDQ1ODg0NTQwMQ%3D%3D)

### **ABC Gardening Australia visits Wooragee Primary School**

This episode filmed with Costa will air on ABC Friday 30th August 2019 at 7:30pm!

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1196422237225863&id=460919197442841](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1196422237225863&id=460919197442841)

## **Climate heroes**

### **Climate Change: The Facts**

Sir David Attenborough looks at a planet on the verge of climate catastrophe. If you missed this documentary which aired on Sunday 11 August on ABC, you can catch it on Iview: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/climate-change-the-facts>

### **How Greta Thunberg shifted world's gaze to climate change**

Greta Thunberg is the driving force behind a movement that has seen more than 2 million teens around the world take part in school strikes against climate change.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/how-teen-greta-thunberg-shifted-world-s-gaze-climate-change-n1043151?>

## **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 September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Facebook**

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

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

**WATCH website:** [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

*Warm regards,*

*Jenny Davies*