

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 16.9.20

WATCH news

Zali Steggall MP relaunches Climate Change Bill

Zali Steggall will table the legislative climate framework in the House of Representatives on 9th November. https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/zali_steggall_mp_relaunches_climate_change_bill
Please support this important Bill and sign up here if you haven't already done so:
<https://join.climateactnow.com.au/>

Neutralise Murdoch

The Murdoch media have run a relentless campaign of misinformation about climate change for decades. WATCH and StopAdani Albury-Wodonga are backing a campaign run by a group called MFW that succeeded in 'retiring' Alan Jones from 2GB for misogynist comments. MFW supporters convinced 530 businesses to withdraw their advertising from 2GB. Please go to <https://bit.ly/327R03a>, click on the headings at the top left to access spreadsheets listing advertiser details, then contact the businesses of your choice who advertise in the Murdoch media. Politely ask them to stop advertising with the climate-denying Murdoch media or you'll stop supporting their business. The more businesses you contact, the more likely it is they'll stop advertising in the Murdoch media.

Wodonga council candidates

Wodonga Council elections are being held in October and one of the candidates, Rupinder Kaur asked to meet our group to discuss her climate policies. We're a non-partisan group but always open to discussing climate change with people across the political spectrum. In due course we'll send a short survey about climate action to all candidates and publish their responses on our website.

NSW Bushfire Inquiry

The final report of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry makes for interesting reading, especially as it gives an indication of the submissions received in relation to climate change. For many who put in submissions, lack of government action was a key point and confirms our belief that this is a powerful influencer in communicating the dangers of climate change.

Facebook

Check the WATCH Facebook page for stories, photos and comments:
<https://m.facebook.com/pg/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/posts/>

Cause for concern

Research reveals shocking detail on how Australia's environmental scientists are being silenced

Ecologists and conservation experts in government, industry and universities are routinely constrained in communicating scientific evidence on threatened species, mining, logging and other threats to the environment, our new research has found. <https://theconversation.com/research-reveals-shocking-detail-on-how-australias-environmental-scientists-are-being-silenced-140026?>

And here's a link to an interview on RN Breakfast with Fran Kelly which is worth listening to:
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/scientists-say-theyre-being-silenced-by-the-government/12647988>

Environmental protection

Why Australia's rush to change environment laws is sparking widespread concern

Anger over proposed changes to national environmental laws is escalating, with legal, health and conservation groups urging that they not pass the Senate, with many warning of dire consequences.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/06/recipe-for-extinction-why-australias-rush-to-change-environment-laws-is-sparking-widespread-concern?>

Sussan Ley accused of gagging debate on controversial environment bill

Indi MP Helen Haines was one of the MPs who wanted to speak on Parliament about the legislation, but was stopped from doing so ahead of a final vote before the Parliament not only finished for the day, but went into a break until October. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6910539/sussan-ley-accused-of-gagging-debate-on-controversial-environment-bill/>

Watch this video where MPs Helen Haines, Zali Steggall and Rebekha Sharkie express their outrage: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-03/crossbenchers-furious-after-environment-law-debate-shut-down/12627944?nw=0>

Crossbench senators vow to block Coalition changes to environment laws

Centre Alliance's Stirling Griff joins independents Rex Patrick and Jacqui Lambie to oppose EPBC Act changes. [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/10/crossbench-senators-vow-to-block-coalition-changes-to-environment-laws? -](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/10/crossbench-senators-vow-to-block-coalition-changes-to-environment-laws?)

Email your Senators!

The Senate is expected to vote in October so this is our window of opportunity to act:

Don't rush through changes to our environment laws - ACF

https://www.acf.org.au/enviro_laws_email_senators?

Senate, protect the environment to protect our health - Climate and Health Alliance

<https://www.caha.org.au/senate-environment?>

Now is our chance to end animal extinction – WWF Australia

<https://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/end-animal-extinction?>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

People Power vs Adani - The Fight of Our Times, 24th September, 7pm

This is a short online film about the fight to stop Adani's coal mine and solve the climate crisis. The film explores what people power has achieved in stopping Adani so far, how we can stop Adani from here, and why winning this fight is more important now than ever before. To access the link, contact Jen Huber jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com or Alison Veld alison.veld@gmail.com

Stop Adani's insurance!

New intel tells us that Adani has gone to insurance marketplace Lloyd's of London in a last-ditch effort to find insurance. Write to Lloyd's insurer W.R. Berkley today and call on them to take the lead within Lloyd's by refusing insurance for the climate-wrecking Adani Carmichael coal project.

<https://www.stopadani.com/insurance>

Knitting Nannas for Renewables

Knitting Nannas are continuing to meet every Thursday at 12.30 to 1.30 in Albury's QEII Square, carefully socially distancing. Everyone is welcome. Contact Alison Veld alison.veld@gmail.com or Liz Hammond 0429 177 681 ronlizhammond@gmail.com

Online committee meeting, Thursday October 1st, 7 – 9 pm on Zoom

Due to Covid 19, the September meeting will be held online. If you would like to participate contact Alison Veld to be sent a meeting link: alison.veld@gmail.com. For all updates visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

Climate updates

Earth may temporarily pass dangerous 1.5°C warming limit by 2024, new report says

The Paris climate agreement seeks to limit global warming to 1.5°C this century. A new report by the World Meteorological Organisation warns this limit may be exceeded by 2024 – and the risk is

growing. <https://theconversation.com/earth-may-temporarily-pass-dangerous-1-5-warming-limit-by-2024-major-new-report-says-145450?>

Australia's farmers want more climate action

The National Farmer's Federation says Australia needs a tougher policy on climate, [calling on](#) the Morrison government to commit to an economy wide target of net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050. <https://theconversation.com/australias-farmers-want-more-climate-action-and-theyre-starting-in-their-own-huge-backyards-144792?>

Sign the Petition

Anika Molesworth is a farmer and a dynamic young climate warrior and is doing a great deal to help move farmers in the right direction. Please consider signing and forwarding to any likely supporters. <https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/portfolio/net-zero-by-2050-petition/>

Border Mail highlights

Climate change, fires linked: NSW premier

A perilous mix of climate change, drought and high fuel loads on the ground caused last summer's unprecedented bushfire season in NSW and is likely to cause similar disasters in the future, Premier Gladys Berejiklian has admitted. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6894329/climate-change-fires-linked-nsw-premier/>

Indi MP Helen Haines tells councils to lead renewable energy change

Dr Haines said community energy, where people generate and share their own solar or wind power, provided an opportunity for partnerships between commercial groups and councils. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6888166/councils-told-to-get-vocal-and-lead-renewable-energy-change/?>

Kat Bennett wants to return for second Wodonga Council term

Cr Bennett has championed council eliminating single-use plastics and said she would like to see a target for reducing emissions. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6909025/kat-wants-to-come-back-for-second-council-term/?>

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. With the gradual relaxing of restrictions, we hope there may be some additional events added as the month progresses.

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-09/>

October <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-10/>

Selected events

Sustainable House Day - September 20th

Register here to attend: <https://sustainablehouseday.com/register/>

Community Energy Launch - September 23rd

Join Helen Haines MP for the launch of the Local Power Plan. Register [here](#).

Gardens for Wildlife children's art competition

Entries due before 30th October 2020. <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/go-wild-art-competition/>

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. Articles of 380 words should be submitted to the *Living Lightly* coordinator, Lauren Salathiel: l.salathiel@gmail.com

Recent articles

[Wildlife's survival depends on us](#) By Kirsten Coates

[Bringing thrifty back](#) By Melissa Kane

[Don't forget the little guys this spring](#) By Jonathan Howard

[Cat enclosures](#) By Lizette Salmon, Gardens for Wildlife Albury-Wodonga

Young people taking action

Indigo Shire Youth for Climate Action

30 young people recently attended online events to discuss climate change and their ideas have been compiled into a report for Indigo Shire Council. Read more here:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=132519688411901&id=117817449882125

School Strike for Climate, September 25th, Build our future: climate justice and jobs

This day also coincides with a global day of action calling for a climate-led Covid-19 recovery.

<https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/buildourfuture?>

Class action to stop planned coal mine extension filed by climate action-focused Australian teenagers

A class action launched on behalf of young people everywhere seeks an injunction to stop the Australian Government approving an extension to Whitehaven's Vickery coal mine, arguing it will harm young people by exacerbating climate change. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-09/class-action-against-environment-minister-coal-mine-approval/12640596?section=business>

Renewable energy

State backs clean energy in bid to fuel COVID-19 recovery

Clean energy projects will receive a Victorian government funding boost in the hope of driving the state's battered economy out of the coronavirus downturn and avoiding a slump in wind and solar investment. <https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/a-shot-in-the-arm-victoria-backs-clean-energy-in-bid-to-fuel-covid-19-recovery-20200901-p55r9r.html?>

Australia's renewables future – Helen Haines

Listen to Helen speak about her vision for a clean energy future. <https://vimeo.com/450977624?>

'Solar our schools' campaign

This campaign is asking the Prime Minister to fund solar and batteries for all schools and early learning centres across Australia. You can sign here: www.ap4ca.org/solarourschools

Coal!

Just get on with it: Coal worker speaks out on the need to transition

[Check out this incredible story from coal worker Tony Wolfe](#), who tells us why, after 40 years working in coal, he's ready for the Federal Government to just get on with the transition to renewable energy.

NAB chief's enlightening answer under questioning by Federal MP Craig Kelly on Australian coal

"We think about the long term, where we think the future value ... will be, and it will be towards renewable energy," Mr McEwan told Mr Kelly. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-13/craig-kelly-asks-nab-boss-ross-mcewan-about-coal-lending-risk/12659048>

Coal-fired pollution killing 800 Australians a year according to Greenpeace Australia report

This national death toll is twice as high as the number of smoke inhalation deaths in the recent catastrophic bushfire season. <https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/coal-fired-pollution-killing-800-australians-a-year-report-20200825-p55ozz.html?>

Highlights from ABC Radio National

'The Carbon Club' tracks Australia's history of emissions reduction policy - RN Breakfast

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/the-carbon-club-tracks-australias-history/12611990>

Window closing for action to stabilise the Earth's climate - The Science Show

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/window-closing-for-action-to-stabilise-the-earth%E2%80%99s-climate/12606342>

The truth about carbon pricing and how to capture CO2 - Future Tense

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/the-truth-about-carbon-pricing-and-how-to-capture-co2/12550236>

Threat of extinction—how Australia's environment law failed - Rear Vision

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rearvision/threat-of-extinction-how-australias-environment-law-failed/12534136?>

Food for thought

Extinction: The Facts review – a heartbreaking warning from David Attenborough

With an eighth of the planet's species at risk of dying out, this documentary offers a stark look at the devastation that humans have wreaked, and are wreaking, on the natural world.

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/sep/13/extinction-the-facts-review-a-heartbreaking-warning-from-david-attenborough>

Australia's climate wars are rooted in the early days of the 2013 Abbott government

How did environmental issues become so politicised? The people purge early in the Abbott government – beginning in 2013 with the "night of the short knives" – gives some clues.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/you-bastards-sacked-me-when-the-climate-sceptics-arrived-20200626-p556nn.html>

Write around the Murray – Paddy Manning

In *Body Count: how climate change is killing us*, journalist Paddy Manning talks to survivors and families who have lost loved ones from extreme weather events in Australia this century. Listen to him speak at this recent event from WAM: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5ftfDU-LRFs>

Good news!

Bruce Key, a long-term member of WATCH and active in many other ways in our community, has been awarded a Wodonga Council Eagle Award. Well done Bruce - we are fortunate to have you on our team. He will receive his award on September 21st.

Thankyou...

Thanks again to friends and supporters who have 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. The next newsletter is due out on October 21st.

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH website: www.watch.id.au

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies