

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 15.11.17

Congratulations!

Totally Renewable Yackandandah TRY takes out a Banksia award in Sydney

Some excellent news here. Well done to all concerned!

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5030402/north-east-sustainable-town-wins-national-environment-award/?cs=11>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Update on StopAdani campaign

Things could all come together for Adani within the next few weeks. It's more critical than ever that our MPs are feeling the heat of community opposition to Adani, particularly in Queensland in the lead up to the 25 Nov State election. Here's what we've been doing locally, what we've got planned and how you can get involved.

Recent actions

Shoppers were treated to an unusual sight on 28th October as our huge STOP ADANI letters made their way up and down Albury's Dean Street. Check out these photos of our quirky action:

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

12,000 people attended the Midnight Oil concert, including those of us at a StopAdani Albury-Wodonga stall, where we collected 1300 signatures for the Midnight Oil StopAdani petition.

Petitions to Sussan Ley and Cathy McGowan

We've got almost 800 signatures on both the Farrer and Indi StopAdani petitions. Organisers are aiming for 1000 names on each. Visit the SAAW stall at the Sustainable Living Fair on November 18th to add your signature if you haven't already done so.

Join the Sussan Ley phone roster

Almost 100 Farrer constituents are participating in our Sussan Ley StopAdani phone roster, calling her office at set times over coming weeks. Office staff must log each call, leaving Sussan in no doubt about local opposition to the mine. If you want to take part please email Jenni Huber:

jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com

Come to a phone calling party

In the lead up to the Queensland election we're hosting phone calling parties, getting together with food and phones to ring people in marginal Queensland seats and talk about their top issues, Adani, and where major parties stand on these issues. In particular, we'll be highlighting the ALP's recent promise to veto the \$1 billion NAIF loan to Adani if re-elected. If you'd like to participate or know more please contact Tracey: tesesler@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/> for photos and videos of our actions and to be kept abreast of breaking news.

Letters in the Border Mail

Here's a letter from David Sloane – please scroll down to the third one. And vote in the poll about the Adani mine if you haven't already done so:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5041696/you-say-if-the-crown-could-act-on-whitlam-then-why-not-now/?cs=52>

Great letter from Peter Sealy about subsidies for renewables versus the fossil fuel industry. You'll need to scroll to the bottom: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4994591/you-say-where-is-the-sense-in-reducing-speed-limit/?cs=52>

Excellent letter from Jonathon Howard about the 'On the Wallaby' column in the BM. Second one down: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4991288/you-say-need-to-open-door-to-young-people-and-their-ideas/?cs=14>

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>

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-11/>

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2017-12/>

Selected events

Creative and Sustainable Beings, Thursday 16th November, 6 - 7.30pm, Arts Space Wodonga

The latest exhibition is 'Soap Opera' by local artist, Susie Losch. Join Susie and other local artists for a discussion on the different considerations they make to produce art sustainably. Tickets \$10 available by phone, in person or online <http://www.thecubewodonga.com.au/contact/>

Albury-Wodonga Sustainable Living Fair, Saturday November 18th, 9am - 1pm, Wodonga Junction Square

A great opportunity to catch up with many of our local groups. Come and say hello!

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/albury-wodonga-sustainable-living-fair/>

Stanley Water for Stanley Community Forum, Thursday 23rd November, 6 – 7.30pm, George Kerferd Hotel, Oak Avenue, Beechworth,

Continue to support the cause by coming to this community event. The guest speaker is Huw Kingston, instigator of the world's first bottled water-free town.

Community Forum on Renewable Energy for Thurgoona, Thursday 30th November, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Thurgoona Golf Club

Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/community-forum-on-renewable-energy-for-thurgoona/>

Yack Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Friday 1st December, 12 - 3.30 pm, Yackandandah Public Hall, 36 High Street, Yackandandah:

This is definitely a date for the diary - John Hewson, Kate Auty, Dan Cass, Simon Corbell and Shane Howard. For more details and to register go to <https://www.trybooking.com/322586> For further information contact Denis Ginnivan, Committee Event Coordinator, 0412 503 498

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. These 380 word articles are published every Wednesday in the Border Mail. Karen Bowley has requested that you keep sending her your articles so this popular column is able to continue. Please email them to kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles

[National Recycling Week 2017](#) By Penny Collis, Halve Waste

[Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Festival](#) By Jill Croome, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Wodonga

[Reducing Environmental Nasties](#) By Lizette Salmon, Albury-Wodonga Sustainable Living Festival event officer

[Saving Energy](#) By Lizette Salmon, Albury-Wodonga Sustainable Living Festival event officer

Community energy

Business case for large-scale Wodonga solar farm to be released

Some exciting news for RAW Energy and Wodonga Council:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5027346/business-case-for-large-scale-wodonga-solar-farm-to-be-released/?cs=11>

Community energy a vital piece of the national energy jigsaw

Cathy McGowan recently spoke in Parliament about the importance of community energy as part of Australia's energy future. Watch the speech here:

http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/community_energy_a_vital_piece_of_national_energy_jigsaw

Celebrate our local food networks

Local Food Action Plan

The development of a local food action plan is to help activate and support the emerging local food system in the North East. Specific projects have been identified and initial working groups have formed and are open to anyone to participate. If you would like to be part of this exciting and fast evolving movement in the North East then please contact Jade Miles Jade@blackbarnfarm.com.au

Harvest Walk, Talk and Taste, Friday 17th November, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Bhutanese Community Farm

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/harvest-walk-talk-and-taste-2/>

Yack Community Garden monthly food swap, Saturday 18th November, 9:30 - 10:30am,

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/yack-community-garden-monthly-food-swap-10/>

Patch to Patch, Saturday November 18th, 9am - 3pm, Old Beechworth Train Station

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/patch-to-patch-2/>

Native produce (bush tucker) farm tour and lunch, Sunday 19th November, 10am - 2pm, Bunyip Hollow, Wodonga

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/native-produce-bush-tucker-farm-tour-lunch/>

Seed Saving 101 and Farm Tour, Saturday 2nd December, 10am - 1pm, Black Barn Farm, Stanley

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/seed-saving-101-and-farm-tour/>

Citizen scientists

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Wodonga council recently promoted the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. About 300 count lists were submitted in Albury Wodonga during the week. It's a great example of how citizen science is helping to track the impacts of climate change. The Scarlet Honeyeater – traditionally a tropical dweller and the subject of the article – was recorded in Albury and Wodonga during the bird count. Here's an article in The Age about what the data is telling us and a lovely photo of the visitor:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/big-dry-driving-redheaded-strangers-south-for-a-wetter-life-in-our-backyards-20171030-gzaulw.html>

Citizen scientists count nearly 2 million birds and reveal a possible kookaburra decline

The fourth Aussie Backyard Bird Count has just ended, with nearly 2 million birds from 635 species submitted to the BirdLife Australia app.

Spring Wild Pollinator Count

It's not too late to get to know your pollinator insects by paying attention to a flowering plant this week. You have until November 19th! And listen to Karen Retra's interview on ABC Goulburn Murray:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-386540435/the-wild-pollinator-count> Great T-shirt Karen!

Cutting back on waste

War on Waste

'War on Waste' recently won the Banksia Sustainability Gold Award and is returning with a follow-up on Sunday 3rd December at 7.40pm on ABC. See: <https://tvtonight.com.au/2017/11/returning-war-on-waste.html>

Congratulations!

- **To Barnawartha Primary School** for its war on waste:
<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5036449/school-leads-in-waste-war-with-zero-rubbish-policy/>
- **To Repair Café Albury Wodonga** which has just celebrated its second birthday! For photos and more information visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/repaircafeaw>

[Lightweight plastic bags to be banned in Victoria - The Age](#)

The Andrews government has committed to outlawing plastic bags following the lead of supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths who announced their own bans earlier this year.

Climate updates

America's First Climate Change Refugees – ABC Dateline

As the Trump administration pulls America out of international meetings on climate change, we visit communities who are already feeling its effects, and being forced to leave their homes.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/dateline/story/americas-first-climate-change-refugees>

Australia's emissions rising as world 'flat-lines' - RN Breakfast

Fran Kelly interviews the Climate Council's Prof Will Steffen:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australias-emissions-rising-as-world-flat-lines/9132880>

[Critical Decade 2017: Accelerating Climate Action](#)

The report released by the Climate Council shows Australia is highly vulnerable to many consequences of a changing climate, from worsening heatwaves, droughts and bushfires, to devastating coral reef bleaching, while most of the nation's population centres are also highly exposed to sea level rise. [VIEW REPORT](#)

[Islands lost to the waves: how rising seas washed away part of Micronesia's 19th-century history](#)

In 1850, the Micronesian island of Nahlapenloh was the scene of Pohnpei state's first battle involving cannons and muskets. Less than two centuries later, it has sunk beneath the waves.

More on Adani

[Fossil of the Day award.](#)

Last week the Australian government's support for Adani won them CAN International's prestigious Fossil of the Day award at the COP 23 climate conference in Bonn.

Strange bedfellows on Q and A!

Watch Alan Jones and Kevin Rudd against Adani on Q&A on October 30th, covered in the [Huffington Post](#)

On a lighter note...

The Ever-Changing Story - Insiders

Another gem from Huw Parkinson featuring Tony Abbott. Couldn't resist!

<http://www.abc.net.au/insiders/the-ever-changing-story/9096936>

Thanks again to everyone who has provided content for this newsletter. Last newsletter for 2017 is due out on 13th December.

WATCH meetings

WATCH usually meets every second month in central Albury. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The next meeting will be in February 2018. WATCHWORD will continue to be published in the meantime.

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