

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.4.16

Letters in the Border Mail

Climate politics shameful

Here's a heartfelt letter from Andrew Baker. It's letters like this that touch us deeply and spur us on. Scroll down to the third in the list:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3841463/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Power of the pen in fight over climate

'The ratio of letters from climate deniers to climate accepters drops to 1 in 7'. Read more here:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3813876/power-of-the-pen-in-fight-over-climate/?cs=11>

WATCH updates

You're invited to our wedding of the year!

Did you know that big polluters have handed \$3.7 million to the major parties since the last election? And that our Government will give them \$7.7 billion in subsidies this year? We must stop the flow of money that is propping up the fossil fuel industry.

So in mid May, WATCH will join forces with 350.org to host a mock wedding between a mining baron and an MP to highlight how wedded they are. We'll have an award winning actress playing the bride and you may be surprised who the other actors are. It's shaping up to be a memorable and hilarious ceremony that will unfold in a very public place in central Albury. Keep an eye out in your inbox for your personal invitation. *Here comes the bride ...*

Climate Emergency Declaration petition

WATCH recently signed this petition which calls on the Australian Parliament to declare a climate emergency and initiate a massive society-wide climate action mobilisation.

<https://climateemergency.good.do/climateemergencypetition/climateemergencydeclarationpetition/>

Climate impacts database

Thank you to those of you who provided information about the impacts of the March 2016 heatwave on the Albury-Wodonga region. We received 13 observations regarding the March heatwave. As stated previously, we are not categorically saying that any of the observations recorded during this or previous years were caused by extreme weather. They were observations made during heatwaves and some may have been caused by other variables. For the full list of observations, please visit this webpage and scroll down to '2016 heat waves' link:

<http://watch.id.au/local-climate-impacts/>

Social media

Thanks to those of you who boosted our 'likes' on the WATCH Facebook after the previous newsletter. We currently have around 260 likes but would love some more. And please share our posts. Our page aims to keep you up to date with news from various media outlets:

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

Good news from Wodonga

Wodonga Council says goodbye to fossil fuel investments

Wodonga Council has made the decision to move their \$17 million in investments away from coal, oil, and gas. This divestment decision means they join Albury Council in actively avoiding investing with banks that fund fossil fuel companies. And well done to WATCH members Lizette Salmon and Bruce Key for their efforts in helping to make this happen: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3842419/city-no-to-investment-at-coalface/>

Arctic ice melting video on screen above Wodonga Senior Citizen's Centre

Bruce Key submitted this video to The Cube who agreed to screen it. It's with great delight that we have spotted this being shown recently. We thank Bruce for initiating this idea.

Wodonga's street lighting changes

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3804723/illuminating-plan-to-cut-lighting-bills/?cs=11>

Bill McKibben – 350.org

Australia 'the most outstanding rogue nation' on climate change - RN Breakfast

McKibben is co-founder of the global climate change movement 350.org. In America, he says religion and science have been trumped by political lobbying and cash from the fossil fuel industry. He warns that Australia has become a 'rogue nation' disproportionately contributing to climate change.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australia-'the-most-outstanding-rogue-nation'-on-climate/7328646>

The links between big polluters and politicians

193 world governments will shortly begin putting pen to paper on the world's first agreement to keep global warming below 2 degrees. This agreement is a huge symbolic blow to the fossil fuel industry, but it will remain symbolic unless politicians cut their ties with the culprits behind this climate crisis – the fossil fuel industry.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2016/04/16/the-links-between-big-polluters-and-politicians/14607288003136>

Coral bleaching

Barrier Reef coral bleaching labelled 'major and significant' as Attenborough warns of 'grave danger'

'The twin perils brought by climate change, an increase in the temperature of the ocean and in its acidity threaten its very existence,' Sir David said: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-07/barrier-reef-coral-bleaching-significant-minister-greg-hunt/7308394>

Great Barrier Reef coral bleaching at 95 per cent in northern section

A disturbing item from the ABC's 7.30 Report:

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4432792.htm>

Great Barrier Reef Bleaching Event: Communications Guide - Climate Council

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/great-barrier-reef-bleaching-event-communications-guide>

Take action – Australian Conservation Foundation

Thousands of people have taken the pledge to make their vote count for the Reef. We're getting ready to flood the offices of MPs and candidates from all parties to put the Reef on the election agenda.

[Have you pledged yet? Pledge now to use your vote to cut pollution, support clean energy and protect our Reef.](#)

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 us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

April <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-04/>

May <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-05/>

Selected events

A Vibrant, Clean Energy Future ... Join the Dots!! Saturday April 23, 7 - 10pm, Yackandandah Public Hall

Totally Renewable Yackandandah invites you to enjoy an evening with Dr John Hewson, and Australian musician, Shane Howard of folk rock group Goanna. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/a-vibrant-clean-energy-future-join-the-dots/>

At the Brink, Thursday 28th April, 6-8pm, Café Grove, Wodonga

The first of a series of talks on hot topics. There are many threatened or endangered species in Australia. How on earth did we get to *the brink*? And what can we do to recover? <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/hotspot-1-at-the-brink/>

Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga - last chance for now! Saturday 30 April 10am – 1pm, Wodonga Senior Citizens Centre

Get your bike, chair, pair of pants or torch fixed and in the process learn some tricks of the trade. Have a look at some photos on our FB photo page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1190738760945896.1073741831.1088817197804720&type=3> For more information visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-4/>

'Love your Wetlands' GANEEA - (Goulburn and North East Arts Alliance) - an art and film event at Swanpool Cinema, Saturday 7th May from 2-5 pm

This features an art exhibition opening, performances, music, short films and a screening of *Tarkine in motion*. Cost \$20 which includes finger food.

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. These articles are a way of inspiring others to have a positive impact on our environment. Karen Bowley is always in need of them so please send your 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com

Recent articles

[Getting Around Cities](#) By Sue Brunskill, Teacher, [National Environment Centre](#), and member of [Wooragee Landcare](#)

[Taking the Local Harvest Challenge](#) By Karen Retra, Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga

[The Best Three-Word Slogan for Reducing Waste?](#) By Alison Mitchell, Friend of Willow Park

[Good Friday Food](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

Have your say..

Release of draft Biodiversity Plan for public consultation

The draft Biodiversity Plan titled "Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036" has been released for public consultation until 15 May 2016. It can be found at DELWP's consultation website HaveYourSay: <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan>

Local food and gardens

New Health Promotion Coordinator, Wodonga region

Megan Hunt has taken over the position as new Health Promotion Coordinator at Gateway Health, working in the Food System for the Wodonga region. Please feel free to contact her at: megan.hunt@gatewayhealth.org.au or phone: (02) 6055 3056.

Seed Savers Albury Wodonga

Dates for your diary!

<https://ssaw.org.au/2016/02/27/event-dates-2016/>

'Our Table to Yours' Birallee Park Neighbourhood House, Wodonga

We have garden beds producing all manner of herbs and vegetables and our purpose built kitchen enables volunteers to prepare over 400 meals a week. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Amanda on (02)60 59 2590. Here's our Facebook page with recent photos: <https://www.facebook.com/Birhouse/>

The Beechworth Food Co-op

The Beechworth Food Co-op continues to grow with now over two hundred household memberships. We now have a range of over 340 products. We're open Tuesday 3-6, Thursday 2-6 and Saturday 9-3.

<http://www.beechworthfoodcoop.org.au/>

Wodonga Junction Square Farmers Market

https://www.facebook.com/Wodonga-Junction-Square-Farmers-Market-1667334043510652/timeline?ref=page_internal

The Market operates on the first and third Saturdays of the month. The organisers would like to promote local environment groups by hosting an information table at the market. If your group would like to be involved, please email Ali Mitchell alison.mitchell2@gmail.com

Climate pollution

Delaying shutting power stations will bring big disruption later – Michelle Grattan

Modelling done for the Climate Institute indicates that without big policy changes Australia's path to zero emissions from the electricity sector by 2050 would mean huge disruption after 2030. The [report](#), warns that a weak policy now means big adjustments later, and calls for a range of initiatives including a program to progressively shut down power stations.

<https://theconversation.com/delaying-shutting-power-stations-will-bring-big-disruption-later-climate-institute-research-57808>

