

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 21.1.15

WATCH updates

Let's act before it's too late

WATCH sent a media release to the Border Mail which resulted in this story:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2801853/lets-act-before-its-too-late-or-costly/?cs=53>

The original media release is on the WATCH website and the story has been shared on the WATCH Facebook page. Lauriston Muirhead also gave interviews on 2AY and Star FM plus Bruce Key was interviewed on Prime News. Well done to all involved in this collaboration!

Climate impacts database

The WATCH website includes a dedicated section on climate impacts: <http://watch.id.au/local-climate-impacts/>. If you're interested in becoming an informant for the database please contact Lizette Salmon (lizette@salmonfamily.id.au or 60 59 4185).

Climate news

NASA finds 2014 warmest year in modern record

<http://www.nasa.gov/press/2015/january/nasa-determines-2014-warmest-year-in-modern-record/#.VLsJVdKUc1I>

2014 was Australia's third-hottest year on record, says Bureau of Meteorology

<http://theconversation.com/2014-was-australias-third-hottest-year-on-record-says-bureau-of-meteorology-35904>

Environment Victoria

<http://www.acfonline.org.au/news-media/media-release/2014-record-breaking-heat-shows-we-need-act-climate-change>

Fossil fuels and divestment

Global Divestment Day February 13-14

Join the chorus of voices calling for Australia and the world to end its toxic relationship with fossil fuels.

<http://gofossilfree.org/australia-gdd/>

Alarming new fossil fuel figures – RN Summer Breakfast

In the ongoing climate change debate, the overriding theme has been about reducing the world's use of fossil fuels. Globally, the magnitude of the issue is staggering.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/alarming-new-fossil-fuel-figures/6011954>

Much of world's fossil fuel reserve must stay buried to prevent climate change

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/07/much-worlds-fossil-fuel-reserve-must-stay-buried-prevent-climate-change-study-says?CMP=share_btn_tw

Ecoportal <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/>

Your online directory listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

Our email alerts have taken a break for summer and will return in February. If you don't already receive them, you can join our list to receive weekly or monthly messages letting you know the events that are coming up, by visiting the [newsletter sign up](#) page. There are summer event offerings, so in the meantime please consider dropping by to check out the calendar – [ecoportal.net.au/event](http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event). We're also working on some changes to the site based on user feedback. We hope to roll those out in the next few weeks.

Welcome this month to the **Beechworth Food Co-op**: <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/beechworth-food-co-op>

Congratulations to **Friends of Willow Park** for posting all their events for the whole year!

What's on in January and February - check all events here:

January <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/01/15/month/all/all/1>

February <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/02/12/month/all/all/1>

Living Lightly <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly>

Living Lightly articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for over four years and will recommence in the Border Mail on 7 February.. Here's a message from Karen Bowley who coordinates the column:

'The staff at the Border Mail enjoy the Living Lightly articles and we are fortunate to have this means to disseminate the practical examples and ideas on the importance of living sustainably, thinking globally but acting locally. If you know of someone who would like to contribute or who inspires others by their own example of living lightly, then please encourage them to send a 400 word article to kbowley53@gmail.com' Many thanks in anticipation!

All previous articles published in the Border Mail are on the Ecoportal website: www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly

Selected events

Lecture by George Marshall, Monday 16th February, 6pm, University of Melbourne's Rural School of Academic Health, Graham Street, Shepparton

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/lecture-george-marshallco-founder-british-organisation-%E2%80%98climate-outreach-information-network%E2%80%99>

Shepparton-based group Slap Tomorrow invites you to attend a lecture by George Marshall who is an author and co-founder of British organisation 'Climate Outreach Information Network' (<http://www.climateoutreach.org.uk/>).

Local updates

Beginner rides with Albury Wodonga Pedal Power AWPP

AWPP's 'beginner rides' will start at 5.30pm on Mondays from Noreuil Park car park, Albury or on Wednesdays from Les Stone Park, Wodonga. The rides will be easy and on bike paths only and will be a distance of approx 10-15 kms. If you would like more information or be added to the mailing list please send an email to awpedalpower@gmail.com To check out the calendar of weekend rides go to [Albury-Wodonga Pedal Power Inc Calendar](#) For further information regarding our regular activities go to [Our Website](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

'Grounded' - an exhibition of paintings at Elvery Fine Art Gallery, Chiltern

Local artist Nina Machielse Hunt captures some of the amazing local landscapes including Beechworth, Chiltern and Stanley. <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/event/grounded-exhibition-paintings-region-nina-machielse-hunt-0>

Squirrel Glider Urban Nest Box Project - Thurgoona and Splitters Creek residents needed!

The Albury Conservation Company is delivering a project to construct and supply 100 Squirrel Glider nest boxes to residents in the more built up areas of Thurgoona and Splitters Creek. Squirrel Gliders are a NSW-listed threatened species that live in Eucalypts and nest in tree hollows which are a declining resource across many parts of Australia due to habitat removal. The project runs until May 2015. Members of the Thurgoona Men's Shed are constructing the nest boxes. <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2795569/nest-boxes-keep-our-squirrels-gliding/?cs=11> To find out more visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event> or contact Sam Niedra sam@nct.org.au M 0448 806 256.

Food news

Fruit fly fail

Read Karen Retra's comprehensive account of the damage caused by fruit fly and how to avoid it: <http://littlehouseonthehill.squarespace.com/home/fruit-fly-fail.html>

Local Food Network North East and Riverina meeting, January 22nd, 11am, Gateway Health

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/meeting-local-food-network-north-east-and-riverina>

Beechworth Food Co-op opening - Thursday 22nd January

The Beechworth Food Co-op is situated at Mayday Hills Village and community members are invited to join. For more information and opening times check this link on the Beechworth Urban Landcare & Sustainability website: www.buls.org.au/foodcoop

Backyard Produce Swap, Wodonga- starting date Saturday 24th January

The swap will take place every Saturday from 11am to 12pm from 24th January to 21st March at the Wodonga Council offices car park near the front steps. Everyone welcome - bring along uncut, fresh fruit and vegetables to share and swap. The produce swap is informal and based on an honesty system. Simply turn up with your produce, put it on the table and share it or swap it. For more information contact Brydie.foran@gatewayhealth.org.au

Jamie's Ministry of Food Mobile Kitchen

Jamie's Ministry of Food Mobile Kitchen began classes on Monday 19th January as part of [Healthy Together Wodonga](#), an initiative delivered by Wodonga Council. Bookings can be made at this website: <https://thegoodfoundation.secure.force.com/bookings>

Wangaratta Farmers Market

This new market will operate from 8am – 12pm on 2nd Saturday of the month at Apex Park, Wangaratta. Next one is 14th February.

Clean energy

Why we need to keep ARENA <http://arena.gov.au/>

ARENA – Australian Renewable Energy Agency - has launched the 'Tomorrow's Energy' video to explain how it helps renewable technology moves along the innovation pathway. But its future is on a knife edge as the Federal Government still has the 'ARENA Abolition Bill' before parliament. Watch the video to remind you of what Australia will lose if the government has its way.

It's happening - energy generation worldwide is changing

The economics and structure of energy generation is being transformed from one of expensive, wasteful, polluting, distributed power under the control of large utilities, to cheaper, efficient, clean power generated locally and sometimes owned by the community. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/ite28099s-happening--energy-generation-worldwide-is-changing/5987784>

UK's biggest solar farm connects to national grid

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/19/uks-biggest-solar-farm-connects-to-national-grid>

Tony's Christmas present!

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/tony-abbotts-christmas-surprise-solar-panels-from-priests-40687>

Petitions

New year, new government, fresh start?

Let Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews know that you expect his government to take serious action to protect our environment and achieve greenhouse emission reductions. Victoria could once again become a power house of renewable energy and a leader in action on climate change. Please sign here:

<http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/leadership>

Monster Climate Petition - Victorian Women's Trust

Congratulations to the organisers of the Monster Climate Petition with more than 70,000 signatures collected and delivered to Canberra. More good news is that **the petition will continue on until August 2015** ahead of the Paris Climate Summit in November. The new end date is 30 August. Visit the site to keep up with what's happening and download your petition or forward to other groups who may like to be involved: www.monsterclimatepetition.com.au

Recent articles

Climate change and health

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2014/12/12/the-two-words-in-climate-talks-that-could-change-everything/>

Heat is on Abbott government over climate change as world turns

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/heat-is-on-abbott-government-over-climate-change-as-world-turns-20150102-12ghrj.html>

Pope Francis's edict on climate change

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/27/pope-francis-edict-climate-change-us-rightwing>

Thoughts for the month

7 inspiring stories of communities taking action for climate

<http://www.greenpeace.org.au/blog/community-climate-action/>

Words of wisdom

'Citizens, especially the next generation, you have to keep raising your voices, because you deserve to live your lives in a world that is cleaner and that is healthier and that is sustainable, but that's not going to happen unless you are heard'. Thanks to the Victorian Women's Trust for reminding us of these words from President Barack Obama at the University of Queensland on 15th November 2014.

WATCH on Facebook

Keep up to date by checking the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links:

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

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on 25th February. Please send any items for inclusion by 23th February to jdjbdavies@gmail.com

Warm regards,
Jenny Davies

WATCH website <http://watch.id.au> WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com