

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 23.1.19

### WATCH news

#### A message from WATCH chair Lauriston Muirhead

Happy New Year! Let's hope it is better than 2018. The weather is certainly doing its bit to show us a mild version of the direction we are headed if we don't stop burning fossil fuels and take other appropriate actions as a matter of urgency. There is good news among the gloom as coal plants continue to close and solar and wind farms continue to open. We just need to ramp that up big time.

We have two major elections this year. Although WATCH is avidly non-partisan, please vote for candidates who understand that strong actions need to be taken on climate change. Have a great year and do what you can to "Stop the Fossils!" And "Start the Renewables!"

#### *'All-time records tumble as temperature soars to 45 degrees'*

There was no reference to climate change in this article published on 16<sup>th</sup> January in the Border Mail. If anyone would like to write a letter to the BM, please feel free! <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5854353/all-time-records-tumble-as-temperature-soars-to-45-degrees/>

#### WATCH has a request for you...

Please let us know if you hear or see any interesting stories about the impacts of the current local heatwave on flora, fauna, crops, wildlife, infrastructure or human health. Contact Lizette Salmon with your observations at [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au) This is also a great opportunity to write a Living Lightly article!

### 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

- [The Heat is On!](#) By Lauren Salathiel
- [Global Challenge to Reduce Plastic Use](#) By Elvie Rooney
- [Plastic Free 2019](#) By Tess Middleton
- [Dealing with Festive Food Fallout](#) By Lauren Salathiel

### Good news!

#### Funding success for RAW Energy and TRY

Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy) and Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) have both been successful in obtaining funding via the Victorian Renewable Communities Program:

<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/community-energy>

#### Low income households are set to benefit from the latest solar energy initiative

RAW Energy is partnering with Beyond Housing on the North East Solar Benefits program. The funding will provide for the installation of micro-grid enabled solar energy systems on ten Beyond Housing (social housing) homes for residents at risk of homelessness. Listen to Bobbi McKibbin and Ben McGowan from RAW Energy describe the North East Benefits Program in this Prime news video. Super exciting!

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2047221912038001&id=136887483071463](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2047221912038001&id=136887483071463)

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

### **Big Letters Walk**

A Big Letters Walk was held in Wodonga on 19th January. Here's an excerpt from a report in the Border Mail: 'Drought, record temperatures and fish kills in NSW are all further reasons not to establish a mega coal mine in the central Queensland, according to Stop Adani Albury-Wodonga. Convenor Tracey Esler said the Carmichael coal mine would threaten water supply and contribute to climate change.' <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5858844/drought-heat-and-fish-kills-all-reasons-to-stop-adani-coal-mine/>

The next Big Letters Walk will be on February 2nd in Albury - details on the SAAW Facebook page or contact Tracey Esler on 0419470458.

### **Knitting Nannas**

Knitting Nannas will restart on Thursday 31st January at 12.30pm in QE2 Square Albury.

### **StopAdani Wagga**

Discussions have commenced with a view to starting a #StopAdani Wagga group. A first meeting is proposed for February. Interested parties please contact Tracey Esler.

### **Next meeting**

Our next meeting is on 7th February at 6pm. To RSVP and for details of the location please contact Tracey on 0419470458.

### **Facebook**

For photos and videos of SAAW actions and to be kept abreast of breaking news, go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

## **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>

**January** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-01/>

**February** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-02/>

## **Selected events**

**Atlas of Living Australia information session, Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am - 12:30 pm, George Kerferd Hotel, Beechworth**

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/atlas-of-living-australia-information-session/>

**Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga, Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am - 1pm, Sustainable Activity Centre**

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga-featuring-costume-jewellery/>

## **2018 in review**

### **Ten feelgood environment stories you may have missed**

Environment news can be depressing. So here are ten uplifting stories from 2018 that prove it's not all doom and gloom out there in the natural world. [https://theconversation.com/ten-feelgood-environment-stories-you-may-have-missed-in-2018-108759?utm\\_](https://theconversation.com/ten-feelgood-environment-stories-you-may-have-missed-in-2018-108759?utm_)

### **Parklands Albury Wodonga**

During 2018, our rangers, volunteers and stewardship groups worked across the region, including Albury environmental reserves and high conservation value roadsides. Read about the excellent work achieved by PAW: [https://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL\\_20-December-18\\_1772.asp?](https://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/news-events/latest-news/PL_20-December-18_1772.asp?)

### **State of the Climate 2018: Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO**

Australia is facing an increase in extreme heat, fire danger weather, floods and marine heatwaves, according to the latest biennial snapshot from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO.

## Climate updates

### David Attenborough tells Davos: 'The Garden of Eden is no more'

Sir [David Attenborough](#) urged political and business leaders from around the world to make a renewed push to tackle climate change before the damage is irreparable.

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jan/21/david-attenborough-tells-davos-the-garden-of-eden-is-no-more?>

### 'I'm sure dinosaurs thought they had time, too'

An estimated 12,500 students walked out of their classrooms in Brussels demanding that government leaders from across Europe take bold action to help stem the global climate crisis.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/01/17/im-sure-dinosaurs-thought-they-had-time-too-over-12000-students-strike-brussels?f>

### Climate change is 'no laughing matter'

Climate change poses an "enormous" threat to Fijians and Pacific Islanders, Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama has warned Australia. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-18/climate-change-is-no-laughing-matter-fiji-pm-says/10724582?u>

### 'Drought, climate change and mismanagement': What experts think caused the death of a million Menindee fish

Here's what we know about the mass deaths and what some independent experts have had to say.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-01-16/what-caused-menindee-fish-kill-drought-water-mismanagement/10716080?>

## More on Adani

### Updates

Adani is still waiting on approvals for its groundwater plan and the Black-throated finch management plan. A Federal government investigation cleared the company of wrongdoing for illegally sinking dewatering bores. The Queensland government enquiry is continuing and will hopefully be more rigorous.

### Adani contractor won't work on Carmichael project after protesters target worksites

Adani clearing contractor Eastern Tree Services group says it 'will not undertake work for Adani' related to the Carmichael coalmine. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jan/17/adani-contractor-wont-work-on-carmichael-project-after-protesters-target-worksites?>

### Adani's Carmichael mine faces another potential setback as opponents lobby insurers not to provide cover

So far, 10 major insurance companies have said they do not intend to provide cover, with a number categorically ruling it out. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-20/adani-carmichael-mine-potential-insurers-under-pressure/10637528?>

### A request from Market Forces...

[Contact all the insurance companies that have failed to rule out insuring the Adani Carmichael coal project!](#)  
<https://www.marketforces.org.au/info/key-issues/theadanilist/insurers-stopadani/>

## Renewable energy highlights

### 11 countries leading the charge on renewable energy

Countries all around the world are powering towards a low-carbon future by embracing solar, wind and geothermal energy: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/11-countries-leading-the-charge-on-renewable-energy/>

### Australia could hit 100% renewables sooner than most people think

Australia has installed more solar panels and wind turbines than ever before. TRY is mentioned in this article by Nicky Ison: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/14/australia-could-hit-100-renewables-much-sooner-than-most-people-think>

### Melbourne becomes first city with all council infrastructure powered by renewables

The City of Melbourne switched all its operations to renewable energy on 1 January. The power is supplied by the Crowlands windfarm near Ararat in western Victoria. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jan/17/melbourne-becomes-first-city-with-all-council-infrastructure-powered-by-renewables>

## Food for thought

**Most coffee species at risk of extinction due to climate change, scientists warn**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-01-17/coffee-facing-extinction-climate-change/10713870?>

**Insect collapse: 'We are destroying our life support systems'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/15/insect-collapse-we-are-destroying-our-life-support-systems?>

**Climate change could turn green turtles female**

<https://www.theage.com.au/world/europe/climate-change-could-turn-green-turtles-female-20190102-p50p88.html>

**'We are at war': New York's rat crisis made worse by climate change**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/21/new-york-rat-crisis-climate-change?>

## Looking after our wildlife

[Gardens 4 Wildlife - Albury Wodonga](#)

We've got a bumper year planned, including bird-bath making workshop, habitat garden open days, pesky pests field days, Aussie backyard bird talks, community planting mornings and a very special talk by Ab Bishop, author of the popular 'Habitat: A practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden' book. For details keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook events page. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/G4WAW/events/>

### It's hot out there!

Here's some sound advice from Baranduda Landcare. Some great photos too:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2011373952308488&id=506884972757401&ref=m\\_notif](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2011373952308488&id=506884972757401&ref=m_notif)

**Kangaloola sees influx of possums, fears for other animals in heatwave**

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5854776/relentless-heat-and-search-for-water-puts-wildlife-in-harms-way/?cs=9681>

### One way to stay cool...

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1450066481792684&id=330190943780249](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1450066481792684&id=330190943780249)

## 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.

### WATCH meetings

During 2019, WATCH meetings will occur every quarter, usually in central Albury, and will offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. The first meeting for the year will be at 6pm on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>, date and venue to be confirmed.

### Website

Please check our website: [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

### Facebook

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

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

*Warm regards,*

*Jenny Davies*