

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.3.19

School Strike 4 Climate

Last Friday's school strike in Albury was brilliant, drawing a huge, vocal crowd of around 300. Speakers were courageous, articulate, compassionate and forthright. Read more details and have a look at the photos here: https://m.facebook.com/story/graphql_permalink/?graphql_id=UzpfSTM1MDI2NzQ5MTczMzIzMjoyMDk5MTU2NTkwMTc3NjM4

WE SAY: Students on strike have got it right - The Border Mail

Wonderfully supportive editorial in the Border Mail. Here is the final part for those of you who don't subscribe: *'What people really should be up in arms about is not that students are missing a few classes but that our politicians, the very people elected to lead this country, are failing so miserably on this issue of climate change. The kids are all right, dear readers. Sadly, our political leaders are not.'* Love it! <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5956869/we-say-students-on-strike-have-got-it-right/>

'There is no planet B'

Some of the best placards from across the world as tens of thousands of young people expressed their views: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2019/mar/15/best-placards-from-global-climate-strike?>

WATCH news

Steve Martin and Mark Byatt decline invitation to Indi candidates forum on climate solutions

With climate a hot topic in the lead up to this year's federal election, WATCH hoped that Indi Liberal Party candidate, Steve Martin and National Party candidate, Mark Byatt, would participate in a candidates forum featuring a climate solutions presentation by internationally respected climate think tank, Beyond Zero Emissions. Mr Byatt didn't respond to our request and Mr Martin declined because he said that a forum hosted by WATCH and BZE, with 'such settled and focused opinions on climate action' was 'unlikely to attract a particularly open-minded audience'.

We're frustrated and disappointed by this dismissive regard for groups that are informed by the CSIRO, IPCC and Melbourne University academics. It begs the question; what sources inform Mr Martin's understanding of climate solutions? If you attend a candidates forum in coming weeks, please be sure to ask plenty of climate-related questions!

Citizen science database

WATCH convener Lizette Salmon recently spoke about the impact of heatwaves on local food production at the Fair Food Farmers and Followers gathering in Stanley organised by the Beechworth Food Co-Op, it was a fabulous opportunity to hear about many innovative local projects as well as spread the word about our citizen science database. For more on local climate impacts visit: <https://watch.id.au/local-climate-impacts/>

Will climate change influence your vote this federal election?

Here is the result of a recent poll by ABC Goulburn Murray. We were pleased with the final result after a rocky start: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2098336190201599&id=108985902469981

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Bob Brown's Stop Adani convoy event, Friday 19th April, Gateway Lakes

On Friday 19th April, Bob Brown's Stop Adani Convoy will depart Gateway Lakes at 9.30am for Queensland's Galilee Basin - site of the proposed Adani Carmichael coal mine - for a public showdown with the coal mining industry and its political backers. We invite all residents to show their support by joining the convoy and/or attending the pre-departure ceremony. People can join the convoy for 5km or the whole 5000km.

https://www.bobbrown.org.au/stopadaniconvoy_signup

Wagga Climate Rally

This was a great success, with 200 marchers and more attendees waiting at the rally point. Altogether 250 to 300 people attended. Wagga's Mayor, Greg Conkey and State member Dr Joe McGirr, spoke about the need to prepare for climate change, the health impacts we are already facing and the challenges ahead. Great to see Wagga standing up for action on climate change. Other events lately included a great Big Letters Walk with strong support from new attendees and the general public.

Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nannas are back in QEII Square on Thursdays at 12.30 pm.

Next meeting 6pm, Thursday April 4th

Come to our next meeting at the Sustainable Activity Centre on the Causeway– please RSVP to Tracey: tesesler@gmail.com

Facebook To keep abreast of breaking news, please visit our Facebook page:

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

NSW Election

Climate change the hot topic at ABC forum

ABC Goulburn Murray's NSW Election forum was held at the Albury Library Museum on March 13th. Four of the five candidates hoping to become the next member for Albury on March 23rd were grilled on issues including climate change, renewable energy and public housing. You can watch it here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2251371088436229&id=108985902469981

Message from Lauriston Muirhead

Dear WW readers,

Some of you may be surprised I took the path of standing for Labor in the NSW State election to be held Saturday 23 March 2019 having advocated a strictly non-partisan stand since we founded WATCH many years ago. As mentioned in the last WW, I have occasionally thought of standing as in Independent to further the cause of climate change action. However, without significant finance, I felt there was no chance of success.

NSW Labor and I started talking and when I saw their policies towards climate change, I felt that if I said “no” to this opportunity, I would always regret it. Whatever happens at the election, we will have been able to elevate climate change awareness further towards the emergency attention and action it deserves. Thanks for your understanding. I can be contacted via Lauriston.Muirhead@countrylabor.com.au

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

Recent articles

[Clean Up Australia Day Celebrates 40 Years](#) By Tess Middleton, Fin Free Albury Wodonga

[Cutting Down on Waste is Child's Play](#) By Sarah McAlister, Yackandandah Toy Library

[Connect with Fellow Fair Food Followers](#) By Jade Miles, Beechworth Food Co-op

Yackandandah Folk Festival, March 22nd to 24th

Waste-wise solutions in Yackandandah

Since its inception, a goal of the Yackandandah Folk Festival each March has been to achieve true sustainability in consumption of resources and energy through the work of its voluntary “Green Team”.

Read more in this *Living Lightly* article by Doug Westland: [Volunteers make green festival progress](#)

Single use plastics

Sustainable waste groups are calling on the Federal government to implement better policies to protect our environment. Check out this video featuring Plasticwise Yack's Cecile Legrand:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2053736501348320&id=181929308529058

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>

March <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-03/>

April <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-04/>

Selected events

Beechworth Festival of Change, April 1-4

The event is being staged by a group of locally based not-for-profit organisations. The event will focus on building skills and networks for creating positive social and environmental change in rural communities. Details here: www.beechworthfestivalofchange.com.au

Native bees, wasps & ants - free forum & workshop,

Thursday April 4, 9:35am - 2:45pm, DELWP Wodonga Office

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/native-bees-wasps-ants-free-forum-workshop/>

Off-Grid Living Festival, Saturday 4th May, Eldorado

<http://offgridlivingfestival.com.au/festivalday2019>

Carbon emissions

'Angus Taylor is deliberately misleading the people' - RN Breakfast

Climate experts issue a joint statement. A good interview by Fran Kelly with Greg Bourne from the Climate Council of Australia: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/angus-taylor-is-deliberately-misleading-the-people/10866494>

The Angriest Summer

A new report from the Climate Council: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/angriest-summer/>

As an ex-coal boss, I'm telling politicians: wake up to climate threat

Excellent article by Ian Dunlop: <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/as-an-ex-coal-boss-i-m-telling-politicians-wake-up-to-climate-threat-20190313-p513qj.html>

Coal-fired power

Rocky Hill coal mine verdict

Some good news here at least! On 8 February, the NSW Land and Environment Court overturned the application for the Rocky Hill coal mine near Gloucester. Great video clip - gave us goosebumps!

[Watch the incredible moment the residents found out the mine had been rejected:](#)

The Coalition is trapped in its coal minefield

Thoughtful analysis by Michelle Grattan:

<https://theconversation.com/grattan-on-friday-the-coalition-is-trapped-in-its-coal-minefield-113577>

Inconvenient truths for our coal-cuddling PM

A timely piece by Peter Hartcher, Political Editor and International Editor of the SMH:

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/inconvenient-truths-for-our-coal-cuddling-pm-20190301-p5119o.html>

Be aware of dirty tricks...

Revealed: Glencore bankrolled covert campaign to prop up coal

The multinational mining giant [Glencore](#) spent millions bankrolling a secret, globally coordinated campaign to prop up coal demand by undermining environmental activists, influencing politicians and spreading sophisticated pro-coal messaging on social media.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/07/revealed-glencore-bankrolled-covert-campaign-to-prop-up-coal>

Australian headlines are designed to scare people into not acting on climate change

As we head into another cycle of climate change politics, beware the economic doomsayers:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/21/australian-headlines-are-designed-to-to-scare-people-into-not-acting-on-climate-change>

Could 'climate delayer' become the political epithet of our times?

Already we argue over whether to call them climate deniers, sceptics or doubters:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/01/could-climate-delayer-become-the-political-epithet-of-our-times>

Wildlife matters...

Site of planned Hunter coal plant is endangered bird's only NSW breeding area

The regent honeyeater's plight has blocked previous Hunter Valley development plans in the Hunter economic zone: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/07/site-planned-hunter-coal-plant-is-endangered-birds-only-nsw-breeding-area>

'Whole thing is unravelling': climate change reshaping Australia's forests

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/07/whole-thing-is-unraveling-climate-change-reshaping-australias-forests>

Decline in Bogong moth numbers leaves mountain pygmy possums starving

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/25/decline-in-bogong-moth-numbers-leaves-pygmy-mountain-possums-starving>

Food for thought

How (and why) to stay optimistic when it feels like the environment is falling apart

'The power of positive thinking has long been recognised. But environmental optimism is no panacea. It needs to be balanced with the reality of environmental pessimism.' Read more here:

<https://theconversation.com/how-and-why-to-stay-optimistic-when-it-feels-like-the-environment-is-falling-apart-113461>

The Apology: from baby boomers to the handicapped generations

David Holmgren speaks from the heart: <https://holmgren.com.au/the-apology-from-baby-boomers-to-the-handicapped-generations>

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. Next newsletter is due out on April 24th.

Facebook

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

WATCH meetings

WATCH meetings occur every quarter, usually in central Albury. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday June 25th. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH website: www.watch.id.au

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies