

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 18.9.19

Global Strike for Climate – this Friday!

School Strike 4 Climate – Friday 20th September, 11am-1pm, QEII Square, Albury

The students of Albury Wodonga are organising a School Strike 4 Climate and are asking the whole community to support them by attending. It's important that their voices are heard. The group 350.org, suggests that historically, if 3.5% of the population are actively engaged, progress is made. For Albury Wodonga this is 3,500 people. The students are aiming for this.

Indications are this event will be very well attended, with the Anglican Church, Uniting Church, the four big banks, CSU and others publicly supporting it. Road closure will be from 11.30am-12.30pm and a walk to Sussan Ley's office will occur between these times, with speeches in QE2 Square before and after the rally. Please come and bring your friends!

Here is the link to the Facebook event and the school strike website. <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/372223343426528/>

Support grows for the student strike

Scots student Luca Lamond leads the way in climate strike

Great to see our local schools supporting the action:

<https://crosslight.org.au/2019/09/09/scots-student-luca-lamond-takes-the-lead-on-climate-strike/>

Prime7 News video

Wonderful to see so many local schools coming out to support their students:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2884141308280569&id=1628658647162181

Albury and Wodonga deputy mayors back students to protest for climate change action

Amanda Cohn and Kat Bennett will on Tuesday join with Wangaratta councillor Ashlee Fitzpatrick to endorse the Albury version of School Strike 4 Climate being held at QEII Square on Friday.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6388127/deputy-mayors-endorse-school-students-striking/>

Border unis back student climate strike

Both Border universities are giving their staff and students the green light to attend Friday's global climate strike. La Trobe University and Charles Sturt University said students won't be "disadvantaged" if they chose to attend instead of classes. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6384644/border-unis-back-student-climate-strike/?cs=11>

Our kids' strike for climate deserves our support

So says the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association:

<https://www.nswnma.asn.au/our-kids-strike-for-climate-deserves-our-support/>

Atlassian leads push for staff to attend global climate strike

Companies have to take their share of responsibility for the "climate crisis" and could not rely on governments to address the problem: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/can-t-rely-on-governments-alone-atlassian-leads-push-for-staff-to-attend-global-climate-strike-20190902-p52n44.html>

WATCH news

Extinction Rebellion event, 26th September, SS&A Club

WATCH received a request from Extinction Rebellion Outreach to promote this free talk about climate change and climate action by Dr Christine Canty. Dr Canty grew up in Albury Wodonga. Event details and RSVPs can be found here (<https://actionnetwork.org/events/albury-wodonga-heading-for-extinction-and-what-to-do-about-it>) and here is the Facebook event page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1220521604786221/>).

Justin Clancy, Member for Albury

Lizette and Lauriston will meet with Justin Clancy to discuss climate change and energy after the climate strike on Friday.

Supporting campaigns

Market Forces requested group signatories and WATCH signed on to a follow-up letter to "at risk" international insurance companies re: Adani Carmichael project

Letters to the editor

More excellent letters to the editor in Border Mail were published on 2 September. Well done to Graham Parton '*Emissions approach flawed*' and David Sloane '*Amazon fire a tragedy*':

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6358025/your-say-so-lucky-to-have-such-caring-staff-at-our-hospital/?cs=9940>

WATCH meetings

WATCH meetings occur every quarter, usually in central Albury. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday December 10th. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: lizette@salmonfamily.id.au

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Next meeting - Thursday 3rd October, 6pm

Meet at the Sustainable Activity Centre SAC, Gateway Island, Wodonga

Big Letters Walk, Saturday 28 September, 10am.

Meet at the Tesla Charging station, Havelock St, Wodonga. Contact Les Langmead at leslangmead@gmail.com

Knitting Nannas

Knitting Nannas for Renewables meet each Thursday, 12.30-1.30pm in QEII Square, Dean St, Albury,

Adani updates

Tree-clearing had started in earnest on the Carmichael site, Native Title over 1350 hectares was extinguished and Wangan and Jagalingou traditional lands were handed over to Adani on August 31st. In positive news, Adani don't appear to have insurance, with 14 insurance companies backing away. They also don't have a railway deal with Aurizon yet.

Stay in touch

If you are interested in spontaneous short local actions, we encourage you to make contact. For further information and to receive the StopAdani Albury-Wodonga newsletter, please contact Tracey Esler tesesler@gmail.com or Jenni Huber jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com To keep abreast of breaking news, please visit the 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>

September <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-09/>

October <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-10/>

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

Unite with young people for climate leadership

Here is an excellent Living Lightly article by Jenni Huber, Knitting Nannas for Renewables:

[Unite with young people for climate leadership](#)

Other recent articles

[Be careful what you drink](#) By Alan Hewett

[Good morning](#) By Richard Paschke

[Sun shines on electric transport](#) By Matthew Charles-Jones, Totally Renewable Yackandandah

Climate emergency updates

John Hewson urges Liberal conscience vote on climate emergency motion

The former Liberal leader is championing crossbench bill and argues 'it was an emergency 30 years ago':

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/11/john-hewson-urges-liberal-conscience-vote-on-climate-emergency-motion?>

And here's an excellent interview on RN Breakfast:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/former-liberal-leader-urges-coalition/11498956>

Helen Haines wants to declare a climate emergency

Fabulous leadership being shown by Helen:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6380967/north-east-mp-pushes-climate-emergency/?>

Australian Medical Association declares climate change a health emergency

The Australian Medical Association has formally declared climate change a health emergency, pointing to "clear scientific evidence indicating severe impacts for our patients and communities now and into the future". <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/03/australian-medical-association-declares-climate-change-a-health-emergency?>

Hotter climate 'is making our kids sick'

Indi MP Helen Haines joined with doctors and farmers in Canberra to push for action on climate change.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6389143/hotter-climate-is-making-our-kids-sick-warns-haines/?cs=11>

Joining the dots

Former fire chiefs demand urgent action on 'escalating climate change threat'

Twenty-three of Australia's most senior former emergency service bosses have come together in an unprecedented show of unity, calling on the Prime Minister to 'get on with the job' of reducing greenhouse gases. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/former-fire-chiefs-demand-urgent-action-on-escalating-climate-change-threat?>

Great Barrier Reef long-term outlook 'very poor', Federal Government reef report finds

The five-yearly report said climate change is escalating and is the most significant threat to the Great Barrier Reef's long-term survival. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-30/great-barrier-reef-report-long-term-outlook-downgraded-very-poor/11464294?>

Nearly half of Australia's native plants are under threat from climate change

Scientists are battling to save Australia's native species, with a nationwide study finding almost half are threatened by rising temperatures and erratic rainfall. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/nearly-half-of-australia-s-native-plants-are-under-threat-from-climate-change?>

Australia to attend climate summit empty-handed despite UN pleas to 'come with a plan'

UN Secretary-General António Guterres wants leaders to present concrete, realistic pathways to strengthen their existing national emissions pledges and move towards net zero emissions by 2050. Australia is not expected to propose any significant new actions or goals. <https://theconversation.com/australia-to-attend-climate-summit-empty-handed-despite-un-pleas-to-come-with-a-plan-123187?>

Request from ABC's 'War on Waste'

The ABC TV 'War on Waste' program is looking for families in Bathurst, Wagga and Albury who would be given tools and tips to do this in exchange for a few days of filming for the next instalments of this great show. They are also looking for a share house/flat share interested in learning how to reduce their food or fashion waste. Please email your details to the program producer at enquiries@lunemedia.com.au

Putting old bikes to good use

Do you have any unused bikes lying around home that would suit teenagers or adults? There are two way you can help out:

Sanctuary Refugee Program is looking for second-hand bikes that will assist newly arrived migrants with getting to school, TAFE, getting to work, and to recreational activities on the weekends. Drop it in to Cycle Station (ask for Paul), located near the Albury Railway Station by 5 October. Contact Mandy on 02 6023 8295 for more information.

Envision Australia has taken over as the old Community Recycle Works has shut down, helping stop old bikes ending up in landfill and help the long-term unemployed gain new skills and transport too. Drop them off for free at the recycling centre at 2/321 Kiewa St, Albury. For more information on Envision please [see here](#).

'It gave me hope'

New Zealand charity gives refugees bikes and teaches them to ride
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/01/it-gave-me-hope-new-zealand-charity-gives-refugees-bikes-and-teaches-them-to-ride?>

Let's continue to enjoy our wildlife

Birdscaping Baranduda, Saturday 12 October, 10am - 2:30 pm

Come along and enjoy 3 open gardens that showcase the use of native plants to create a wildlife friendly garden **followed by BBQ & guest speaker** AB Bishop, author of *Habitat – a practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden*. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/birdscaping-baranduda/>

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Burrumbuttock

Developed and maintained by local volunteers, Wirraminna presents a model for local Landcare projects that aim to restore native vegetation and wetlands on farms to redress problems of declining biodiversity. Fabulous place for a day out! <https://www.wirraminna.org.au/wirraminna/>

Mountain pygmy-possums and Bogong moths

Bogong Moth populations appear to have suffered a catastrophic decline in the past two years, which means there's simply not enough food for these tiny possums to raise their babies. <https://www.zoo.org.au/possums/>
What can be done? Watch this cute video!

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2336055666522221&id=299936920134116

Good news is worth celebrating

Congratulations to Wodonga Urban Landcare Network!

On Friday 30 August, a small group attended Government House and proudly accepted the Victorian Urban Landcare award on behalf of Wodonga Urban Landcare Network. This award honours the collective good work of staff, groups, volunteers and committee in encouraging broad participation in Landcare within Wodonga and the protection and conservation of our parks, reserves and waterways. <https://m.facebook.com/landcarevictoria/photos/a.206380486074986/2545536095492735/?type=3&source=57>

This small school in Wooragee has a big heart

Watch Gardening Australia's Spring Special to see Costa's recent visit to Wooragee Primary School:
<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/gardening-australia/series/30/video/RF1805V031S00>

Six sentences of hope

Defining a unifying vision in the face of the climate crisis

“A sense of futility haunts us all, so I sought to distill in as few words as possible what could be done by us as a people. Writing them, I felt my despair lift” – Richard Flanagan:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/22/six-sentences-of-hope-defining-a-unifying-vision-in-the-face-of-the-climate-crisis>

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. The next newsletter is due out on October 23rd.

Facebook

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

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH website: www.watch.id.au

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies