

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 23.10.19

Growth of our climate network

Although WATCH has been in existence for 12 years, it is heartening to see other groups forming during the past two years. These are StopAdani Albury Wodonga, Knitting Nannas for Renewables, School Students 4 Climate and now Extinction Rebellion Albury Wodonga. We are indeed in a crisis situation and knowing we are part of an ever-growing community of those who care about our planet gives us some degree of hope.

How we proceed as individuals is something we all have to grapple with. Images of Extinction Rebellion - XR - actions around the world have appeared on our TV screens and social media. Several locals attended the Melbourne event and an Albury Wodonga XR group has formed – details below. In the meantime, StopAdani Albury Wodonga is highlighting GHD's involvement with the Adani mine.

GHD – Rule out Adani protest – tomorrow!

GHD protest, 105 Hume St, Wodonga, Thursday 24th October, 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Engineering consultancy GHD is a contractor working on Adani's Carmichael coal mine project. Residents will protest outside GHD's office in Wodonga on Thursday 24 October, joining a National Week of Action in which StopAdani groups are gathering across the country at regional offices of GHD. All welcome! Contact Tracey Esler for details: tesesler@gmail.com

In a letter to GHD earlier this month, Albury and Wodonga Deputy Mayors, Crs Amanda Cohn and Kat Bennett asked GHD to clarify its positions and intentions in relation to the Adani Carmichael mine and associated infrastructure. GHD has yet to respond.

Global Strike for Climate

School Strike 4 Climate in Albury

Great day in Albury on September 20th with around 2000 in attendance. Fantastic banners, signs, speeches, poems, songs etc. but most of all hope and youthful energy from the children and students. An article in The New Daily gave Albury's 'die in' prominent listing, immediately after Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne! Here's the link: <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/09/20/climate-strike-global-warming/>

Prime 7 News had this great news coverage:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2513259935434194&id=136887483071463

Sussan Ley has not yet engaged with the School Students 4 Climate after the recent strike. She is still supporting her government's credentials on climate action and emissions reductions.

WATCH news

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

Justin Clancy, Member for Albury

Lizette Salmon and Lauriston Muirhead met with Justin Clancy to discuss climate change and energy after the climate strike on Friday 20th September. Justin is the new Liberal Member for Albury having won the electorate in the State election in March this year. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce WATCH to Justin and to try to determine his level of understanding of, and personal investment in, this subject. Justin was in favour of renewables, particularly hydro power and would like more emphasis on energy conservation and energy efficiency, but climate action did not appear a high priority at this stage. It was difficult to determine whether this was his feeling or "the party line".

Letters to the editor

Letters on climate change have poured in to The Border Mail at rates not seen in 12 years of record-keeping. Plenty of local climate deniers in the mix. Apologies to those who do not subscribe and cannot read these excellent letters we but hope you will be heartened by the efforts of those who are keeping the pressure on.

October 21st Graham Parton's letter entitled 'Simple to understand' notes the connection between climate change and drought: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6445513/your-say-protests-should-not-infringe-on-the-rights-of-others/?cs=9940>

October 18th David Sloane wrote in in favour of publishing climate denier letters, David Thurley advises deniers to 'Listen to the science' and Rev'd S A Eiseman says 'Time is running out': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6440333/your-say-were-all-entitled-to-our-say-even-when-were-wrong/?cs=9940>

October 16th Graham Parton commented on the publication of climate denier letters, swiftly followed by one! <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6435867/your-say-whats-not-to-love-about-citys-new-festival/?cs=9940>

October 11th Chris Lehmann's heartfelt letter 'I choose earth' was published with one from Derek Robinson 'Can we move forward?': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6427880/your-say-choose-where-you-will-stand-i-choose-earth/?cs=9940>

October 4th Here's another supportive letter from Derek Robinson 'Why farmers aren't to blame and it's no time to be a denier': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6417381/why-farmers-arent-to-blame-and-its-no-time-to-be-a-denier/?cs=9940>

September 27th A letter by Rev'd Eiseman was published with the title 'Politicians given a wake-up call on climate change': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6407784/politicians-given-a-wake-up-call-on-climate-change/?cs=9940>

September 23rd Here are three positive letters including Lizette's: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6399327/kids-leading-the-way-in-a-country-thats-a-pariah/?cs=9910&fbclid=IwAR0e0zvpjaWk->

September 18th Lauriston Muirhead's letter was published under the heading 'Writing on the wall but conservative parts of church can't read it': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6391150/writing-on-the-wall-but-conservative-parts-of-church-cant-read-it/?cs=9940>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Save the date to hear Bob Brown!

On Friday, 1st November, Bob Brown is returning to the Border for his film and book launch tour. The evening event will be at the Albury Entertainment Theatre. Details are being finalised and will be available on our SAAW Facebook page under 'Events'. This is your chance to hear and support one of Australia's greatest environmentalists.

Knitting Nannas for Renewables

Knitting Nannas meet every Thursday at 12.30pm. Please contact Jenni Huber to be advised of the next location. jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com

Knitting Nannas met outside Sussan Ley's office on Thursday 3rd October to support the School Strike for Climate students. Here's a link to TV coverage on Prime 7 News: <https://www.prime7.com.au/news/13610-climate-protest>

Big Letters Walk, 10.30am, Saturday 26th October, Albury

Meet at the Railway Bridge at the end of Dean St. Contact Les Langmead leslangmead@gmail.com

Lisa Mitchell

Albury's very own Lisa Mitchell has joined StopAdani! The indie singer-songwriter is one of our region's biggest stars. She and other musicians will converge at Binbee in Central Queensland from October 24th-27th to show support for Frontline Action on Coal's work opposing the Adani Carmichael mine.

Next SAAW meeting - Thursday 7th November, 6pm

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

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 excellent 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/>

Extinction Rebellion Albury Wodonga

Extinction Rebellion presentation

Dr Christine Canty gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of Extinction Rebellion on September 26th at the SS&A Club, Albury. The first locally organised XR meeting was held on Tuesday 1st October in Albury, followed by one on Tuesday 15th October.

Next meeting - Tuesday 29th October, 7pm

For details of the venue please contact xralburywodonga@gmail.com or check the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Extinction-Rebellion-AlburyWodonga>

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>

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

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-11/>

Selected events

City of Wodonga Community Conversation, Monday, 4th November, 6 – 7.30pm

The forum will include three community speakers on climate change and other environmental issues.

<https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Community-Conversations-Forums-2019>

Albury Wodonga's Sustainable Living Festival SLF

The Festival runs from the 16th to the 24th November inclusive. The SLF Fair is on 16th November (8am-1pm) and Follow the links for more information including the downloadable program.

<https://alburywodonga.gov.au/slf> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AWSustainableLivingFestival/>

Earth Canvas open days – linking artists with Regenerative Farmers

In November, an open field day for general public will be held on each farm with the artists to display the work created and a farm tour by the regenerative farmer. Details of events here:

<https://opendays.earthcanvas.com.au/book-now?>

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

[REDcycle your plastic](#) By Joy Grinham

[A tale of two grapefruit](#) By Graham Parton

[Character attacks fail to silence climate voices](#) By Alan Hewett

[Students head call for climate leadership](#) By Lauren Salathiel

[Let's celebrate our rivers together](#) By Jonathon Howard

More on Extinction Rebellion

Extinction Rebellion: who are the protesters, and why are they doing it?

Eleven people who took part in protests in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne explain what motivated them to take to the streets. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/12/extinction-rebellion-who-are-the-protesters-and-why-are-they-doing-it?>

Before we judge the protesters, ask what else they could have done

It's not just scientists saying we're in grave danger. It's emergency responders, defence experts, doctors, agronomists: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/before-we-judge-the-protesters-ask-what-else-they-could-have-done-20191008-p52yo6.html?>

'We declare our support for Extinction Rebellion': an open letter from Australia's academics

Leading academics from around the country say it is their moral duty to rebel to 'defend life itself' <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/sep/20/we-declare-our-support-for-extinction-rebellion-an-open-letter-from-australias-academics?>

The Greta effect

Climate change a bigger danger than sexism and poverty, Australian girls say

The 'Greta effect' is taking hold among young women and girls who say they aren't afraid to stand up for what they believe in. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/climate-change-a-bigger-danger-than-sexism-and-poverty-australian-girls-say?>

'Right here, right now': Fatboy Slim samples Greta Thunberg for live show

Fatboy Slim has paid tribute to Greta Thunberg in a performance in Gateshead, mixing her [speech to the United Nations](#) into a performance of his club favourite 'Right Here, Right Now': <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/oct/09/right-here-right-now-fatboy-slim-samples-greta-thunberg-for-live-show?>

The Greta Thunberg Helpline

Mark Humphries has some fun here: <https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/mark-humphries-presents-the-greta-thunberg-helpline/11561522?>

Climate emergency updates

Government blocks crossbench motion to declare a climate change emergency

The Morrison Government has blocked a motion in Federal parliament to declare a climate emergency and refused efforts from the crossbench to even discuss the proposal. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/government-blocks-crossbench-motion-to-declare-a-climate-change-emergency-72892/?>

This is what climate change looks like – Climate Council

[This Is What Climate Change Looks Like](#) is a photo essay that graphically illustrates the impacts that climate change is inflicting on our iconic natural ecosystems and wildlife

Climate change to spell 150 million humanitarian disasters by 2030, says Red Cross

More frequent and intense climate-related disasters are forecast to leave 150 million people in need of humanitarian aid each year by the end of next decade and cost up to \$29 billion annually. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-disasters-to-leave-150-million-in-humanitarian-need-by-2030-red-cross-20190919-p52t3o.html>

Scott Morrison at the UN

We fact checked Scott Morrison's speech to the United Nations - ABC

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, Scott Morrison accused domestic and global critics of ignoring Australia's achievements in tackling climate change, complaining that "the facts simply don't fit the narrative they wish to project about our contribution". Here's what we found: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-30/morrison-un-speech/11553594?>

Torres Strait Islanders want Scott Morrison to visit their 'climate-threatened homes'

Advocates say the effects of climate change have already hit the low-lying islands of the Torres Strait. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/torres-strait-islanders-want-scott-morrison-to-visit-their-climate-threatened-homes?>

David Attenborough attacks Australian PM on climate record and support for coal

David Attenborough says the Coalition government led by Scott Morrison had adopted an attitude of 'we don't give a damn what burning coal does to the rest of the world'. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/24/david-attenborough-attacks-australian-pm-on-climate-record-and-support-for-coal?>

Good news is worth celebrating!

Renewable energy fights poverty

Renewable Albury Wodonga Inc - RAW Energy - has partnered with [BeyondHousing](#) to install 10 4kW solar systems to families struggling with the high cost of powering their homes who rent or can't afford to install a solar system. More details here: <http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/category/raw/>

And here's a terrific video about the project by Simon Duncan from Green Energy Videos:

<http://renewablealburywodonga.com.au/green-energy-video-raw-beyond-housing/>

Albury Council agrees to setting more ambitious carbon intensity targets

Great to see Amanda Cohn and David Thurley pushing these targets through:

[https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6403288/lifting-the-bar-on-carbon-intensity-target/?](https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6403288/lifting-the-bar-on-carbon-intensity-target/)

Vale Penny Whetton

A pioneering climate scientist skilled in the art of life

<https://theconversation.com/penny-whetton-a-pioneering-climate-scientist-skilled-in-the-art-of-life-124093?>

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 November 20th.

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