

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 20.11.19

Save Our Water! - protest tomorrow!

The #StopAdani Albury Wodonga action will be held at Sussan Ley's office, 517 Kiewa Street Albury, Thursday 21 November, 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Background

This protest will urge Sussan Ley to carry out a full Environmental Impact Statement on Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme. After initially being knocked back in Court, Adani have re-applied for their NGWS approvals. This would mean extracting 12 billion litres of water every year from the Suttor River for a new coal mine, in a time of severe drought and climate crisis. This approval is essential to Adani having an operational mine.

WATCH news

Newsletter

Welcome to all the new WATCHWORD subscribers. After the successful Sustainable Living Festival Fair last Saturday, we now have almost 900 on the list!

Lauriston Muirhead's presentation, 5 October 2019

Lauriston gives regular presentations about climate change and WATCH. Here is one of his most recent at an Indi Connects forum: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ReUPtST6buc>

WATCH meetings

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

Facebook

A recent post of a great 'climate activism' cartoon by Pat Campbell was shared more than 600 times and reached nearly 50,000 people. You can follow us here: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

GHD action on October 24th

Around 40 +attended. We had the best coverage we've ever had on Prime 7 News and we were the 1st item. Here's a snapshot <https://youtu.be/ig8xr8BLybw>

Bob Brown film & book launch, 1st November

A very successful evening with nearly a full house. It was great to hear from Bob and see the Convoy film. Thanks go to all helpers.

Congratulations Tracey!

On the national StopAdani website there are several 'member profiles'. It came as no surprise to see Tracey Esler was the third person featured in their list! Scroll down and read the profiles here: https://www.stopadani.com/action_station

Knitting Nannas for Renewables

Knitting Nannas meet in Albury every Thursday, 12.30 to 1.30pm. Come along for a chat and to support them. Bring a chair and your knitting if you like. During November they will be outside Sussan Ley's office and will return to QEII Square near the Dean St Bus stop in December. Please contact Jenni Huber, on 0410 074 900 or jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com to check the location.

Galilee Rising

Galilee Rising is a new, volunteer-led organisation that will provide training and resources to empower more Australians to take part in peaceful direct action to stop Adani on the frontlines and in the cities. [Join Galilee Rising and help preserve a liveable climate for everyone by stopping Adani.](#)

Next SAAW meeting - Thursday 5 December, 6 - 7.30 pm

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/>

Border Mail highlights

Apologies to those who do not subscribe and cannot read these excellent letters and articles we but hope you will be heartened by the efforts of those who are keeping the pressure on.

Climate change activists Extinction Rebellion form in Albury-Wodonga

Extinction Rebellion Albury-Wodonga spokesman Eli Davern said the group, which was formed about a month ago, would make their presence known. "We're ready as an organisation and want to take action on climate change." <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6490581/rebellion-rises-on-border-but-mp-labels-group-essentially-eco-fascists/?cs=9681>

And here's a terrific *Living Lightly* article by Eli Davern: [Youth call for climate action](#)

Letters to the editor

13 November - 'Ley's decisions will impact future generations' by Jan Hastings. Jan wrote about the North Galilee Water Scheme and the protest outside Sussan's office on Thursday 21st November. Unfortunately, there is no link to it.

5 November - 'Climate change is not a single event, it's a trend.' by Jonathon Howard who thinks it important to call out unethical, and narrow-minded journalism when it occurs:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6472421/your-say-climate-change-is-not-a-single-event-its-a-trend/?cs=9940>

31 October - 'Mike was right' by Graham Parton:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6465296/your-say-saving-on-water-a-poor-trade-off-for-200-jobs/?cs=9940>

Extinction Rebellion Albury Wodonga

NVDA training

Extinction Rebellion aims to effect change through non-violent direct action (NVDA). NVDA Training is happening this Saturday 23rd November 2019 from 10am to 4.30pm. For further details please contact xralburywodonga@gmail.com

Next meeting - Tuesday 26th November, 7pm

For details of the venue please contact xralburywodonga@gmail.com. Check the Facebook page for news and videos: <https://www.facebook.com/Extinction-Rebellion-AlburyWodonga>

Crafternoon tea, Sunday 1st December, 12-4pm at the SAC, Gateway Island, Wodonga,

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>

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

December <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2019-12/>

Selected events

Yackandandah Arts Festival

With a focus on the environment, there are 14 events including a screening of the film '2040' across the first weekend of December. Details here: <https://yackartsfestival.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

[Fallen trees are homes, not hazards](#) By Jonathon Howard

[Repair Cafe's 'most popular' listing](#) By Lizette Salmon, Coordinator Repair Cafe Albury-Wodonga

Bushfires and climate change

Grattan on Friday: When the fires call him out on climate change, Scott Morrison should listen

When five former fire chiefs held a news conference on Thursday to urge the federal government to take more action on climate change, it was a challenging moment for Scott Morrison

<https://theconversation.com/grattan-on-friday-when-the-fires-call-him-out-on-climate-change-scott-morrison-should-listen-127049?>

'Climate change is supercharging our bushfire situation': Greg Mullins

Listen to this important interview with Greg Mullins who is one of many senior emergency services people trying to get action both short and long term:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/climate-change-is-supercharging-our-bushfire-situation/11703228>

Interview with Michael McCormack

Hamish McDonald did his best in this interview with the deputy PM, to no avail:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/early-start-to-bushfire-season-a-huge-worry:-michael-mccormack/11691358>

'Mr Morrison, I lost my home to bushfire. Your thoughts and prayers are not enough'

'If the Morrison government seriously wanted fewer Australians to experience a bushfire crisis, it would use the current situation to galvanise public sentiment, shift the political agenda, and make meaningful inroads into emissions reduction.' <https://theconversation.com/mr-morrison-i-lost-my-home-to-bushfire-your-thoughts-and-prayers-are-not-enough-126754?>

Fire weather: Cold front drags in hot, blustery air and sudden dangerous wind changes

Cold fronts have resulted in disastrous fires again and again in Australia.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-11/fire-weather-and-why-tuesday-looks-so-bad/11693894?>

Climate emergency updates

11,000 scientists from around the world unite to declare global climate emergency

More than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries have come together to declare a climate emergency and create a six-step plan to help humanity mitigate the effects of man-made global warming.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/11-000-scientists-from-around-the-world-unite-to-declare-global-climate-emergency?>

Venice floods: Climate change behind highest tide in 50 years, says mayor

Severe flooding in Venice that has left much of the Italian city under water is a direct result of climate change, the mayor says. Here are some disturbing images: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50401308?>

Ardern says New Zealand on 'right side of history' as MPs pass zero-carbon bill

Jacinda Ardern's [landmark climate legislation](#) has passed in New Zealand parliament, with historic cross-party support: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/07/ardern-says-new-zealand-on-right-side-of-history-as-mps-pass-zero-carbon-bill?>

Sea ice

No-one seems to be talking about sea ice this year, yet it's lower than ever. The first of these three charts is disturbing to say the least: <https://members5.boardhost.com/xxxxx/msg/1572995800.html>

Wildlife – focus on birds

Black-throated finch wins 2019 bird of the year!

The black-throated finch has been voted Australian bird of the year for 2019, beating the tawny frogmouth in a landslide. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/15/black-throated-finch-wins-2019-bird-of-the-year-as-tawny-frogmouth-comes-second>

The highly endangered finch is under [threat from the expansion of the Adani Carmichael coalmine](#).

Birds are liberation that never ends. But enjoying their company is also to know an inconsolable sadness – Richard Flanagan

'The fairy penguins under my shack are gone, and soon the forty-spotted pardalotes and swift parrots will join them. Our children knew these birds; their children will not'

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/01/birds-are-liberation-that-never-ends-but-enjoying-their-company-is-also-to-know-an-inconsolable-sadness?>

Youngsters caring for our environment

Seven-year old's fight to save turtles

Charlie Erlewein was the youngest community member to present to councillors at Wodonga Council's second community forum on Monday 4th November:

<https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/Newsroom/Archive/seven-year-olds-fight-to-save-turtles?>

Congratulations!

Wooragee Primary School is the regional winner of the Victorian Schools Garden Program:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1281014742099945&id=460919197442841

Local government

Indigo Shire's new Mayor

Jenny O'Connor is ready to return to the job of Indigo Shire mayor after a year away, and keen to resume her leadership role with a focus on tackling climate change which is 'absolutely almost the number one issue right now': <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6489212/jenny-oconnor-feels-privileged-to-be-back-in-mayor-role/?cs=9681>

Invitation

Senator Janet Rice

Victorian Senator Janet Rice will be in Albury on Saturday 23rd November. There will be an informal dinner with her at [The Bended Elbow](#), 480 Dean St Albury at 6pm and anyone is welcome to attend. Senator Rice has the Australian Greens (federal) portfolios of transport and infrastructure, sport, agriculture, forests, sustainable cities and LGBTIQ.

Our local pollies in the news

Helen Haines comments on climate emergency e-petition

A history-making 404,583-signature e-petition was delivered to Parliament by Noah Bell and Zali Steggall MP. You can listen to Helen Haines' comments here: <https://vimeo.com/367926934?>

Environment minister Ley flags softening rules in another move to protect coal

Federal environment minister Sussan Ley will use a statutory review of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) to revive a campaign against 'green tape' and 'environmental lawfare', ignoring the calls from hundreds of scientists to focus on the looming species extinction crisis. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/environment-minister-ley-flags-softening-rules-in-another-move-to-protect-coal-64381/?>

Plastic bags ban is 'not simple', says Albury MP Justin Clancy

NSW will remain the only state in Australia where single-use plastic bags will be legal, after Albury MP Justin Clancy helped his government defeat a bill that aimed to impose a ban.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6458860/plastic-bags-to-stay-in-nsw-as-mps-say-ban-is-not-simple/?cs=11>

Food for thought

Why Is Australia trying to shut down climate activism? - The New York Times

An increasingly outraged public is demanding action in a nation intimately linked to coal mining. The government has responded by threatening a new law to punish protesters:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/06/world/australia/australia-climate-protests-coal.html>

Let's be optimistic...

Australia could fall apart under climate change but there's a way to avoid it

'There is reason to hope. It's not all bad news.' Ross Garnaut conducted the 2008 and 2011 climate reviews for the Rudd and Gillard governments.' <https://theconversation.com/australia-could-fall-apart-under-climate-change-but-theres-a-way-to-avoid-it-126341?> - His book [Superpower – Australia's Low-Carbon Opportunity](#), has recently been published.

Here's what 2030 could look like if we win the fight - World Economic Forum

Right now, we are losing the fight against climate change – but what would winning look like? Here's one version of a “CO-topia”: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/10/what-happens-if-we-beat-climate-change/>

And finally..

The 'Not Today' Show with Mark Humphries

During the bushfire crisis, many politicians were hesitant to answer questions from journalists about climate change. But now there's a new program more willing to accommodate their unwillingness to address the issue: <https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/not-today---the-television-program-which-tackles/11706410>

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 December 18th.

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com

WATCH website: www.watch.id.au

Warm regards, Jenny Davies