

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 18.12.19

WATCH news

NSW emission targets

Lizette and Lauriston met with Member for Albury Justin Clancy in September. In a follow up email, Lauriston forwarded a report that ranked states and territories in terms of energy transition. NSW is in the bottom three and falling further and further behind. WATCH requested that Mr Clancy brought this to the attention of the relevant minister(s). Here is the link: https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CC_State-Renewable-Energy-Nov-2019_V5.pdf

On December 12th, NSW's interim climate target of 35% emissions reduction by 2030 (presumably on 2005 levels) was released: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-to-commit-to-new-emission-reduction-targets-for-2030-20191211-p53izc.html>

#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

Global engineering firm GHD concludes work on Adani's Carmichael coal project

The global engineering and services firm GHD has told staff it has concluded its work on Adani's Carmichael coal project after a 10-year association with the company. It also comes as another engineering firm, Siemens, [considers backing out](#) of an Adani contract. A fantastic outcome, thanks to sustained pressure, including from SAAW. Well done to everyone who attended GHD protests.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/17/global-engineering-firm-ghd-concludes-work-on-adanis-carmichael-coal-project?>

Stop Adani Albury-Wodonga holds protest outside Sussan Ley's office

Thank you to all who attended the protest on Thursday 21st November, especially our terrific guest speakers Claire Douglas, Libby Driver and Jonathon Howard. We received great coverage on Prime. See Prime 7 link: <https://www.facebook.com/Prime7NewsBorder/videos/426969961309358/?>

Infrastructure to be built for the North Galilee Water Scheme (NGWS) would allow up to 12.5GL a year to be taken from the Suttor River for the coal mine, for general use, dust suppression and the washing of coal.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6504534/four-lake-humes-would-go-to-mine-stop-adani/?>

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. During December and January, they will be in the shade in QEII Square near the Dean St Bus stop. (They are having Boxing Day off.) Please contact Jenni Huber, on 0410 074 900 or jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com to check the location.

Big Letters Walk, Saturday 18th January, 9.30am

Contact Les Langmead for further details. leslangmead@gmail.com

Next SAAW meeting – Thursday February 6th 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 StopAdani Albury-Wodonga newsletter, please contact Tracey Esler tesesler@gmail.com To keep abreast of breaking news, please visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

National Climate Emergency Summit

Beyond the declarations, February 14 – 15, Town Hall, Melbourne

The National Climate Emergency Summit will convene practitioners, advocates, governments, youth leaders, and industry innovators in a focused and collaborative two-day event to unpack what a climate emergency response could look like at local, national, and global levels. Great speakers! Register now:

<https://www.climateemergencysummit.org/>

Extinction Rebellion Albury Wodonga

Action on Saturday 14th December in Albury

150 people attended the first XR AW event at the Dean and Kiewa St intersection. Actions included several rounds of XR logo formation, a die in, disco, and chalking fish on the road to highlight effects of the climate crisis on the marine environment. This non disruptive action during the 25 second pedestrian lights received many

positive responses from locals, honking horns and giving the thumbs up. A successful outcome! Here's a report in the Border Mail. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6543178/rebels-target-intersection-for-first-of-many-protests/>

Next meeting - January 14th, 2020

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

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.

Fires and climate change linked: Ley

In this article published on Friday 13th, Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley has broken ranks with her government and linked the bushfires in NSW with climate change.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6541034/fires-and-climate-change-linked-ley/>

Editorial - Community shining a 'green' light on energy

Great editorial in the BM. 'For more than a decade, Australians have had to suffer the frustration of political inaction on climate change. It is an absurdity that must have other developed nations totally bemused'.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6517929/we-say-community-shining-a-green-light-on-energy/?cs=9941>

The article also mentions Indigo Power, a locally owned energy retailer. www.indigopower.com.au

Letters to the editor

Thursday December 12 'What is Ley's purpose?' A letter from Ruby Rowat commenting on Sussan Ley's decision to 'prioritise a coal mine (Shenhua) over her fellow citizens' deep sense of purpose and connection'

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6536002/your-say-one-set-of-rules-for-pollies-another-set-for-us/?cs=9940>

Wednesday December 11 'On climate change, the truth is not for debate' A letter from Graham Parton re publishing the views of climate deniers. Also great to see Michael Elvins, a new letter-writer on climate change.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6534281/your-say-on-climate-change-the-truth-is-not-up-for-debate/?cs=9940>

Student Strike 4 Climate

Great conviction and maturity shown by Albury's young people at the protest for the climate outside Sussan Ley's office on November 29th. Watch the Prime News video here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3057984207562944&id=1628658647162181

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>

Selected events

Earth Song with Leonie Brien, Leanne Murphy and friends

Saturday 11th January (TBC), 10am-1pm, Wooragee Hall. \$20, includes morning tea.

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/earth-song-with-leonie-brien-leanne-murphy-and-friends/>

All profits to the Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter <http://www.kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.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

- [Cheers to the ethical choice](#) By Lauren Salathiel
- [Holiday snappers put beauty spots at risk](#) By Alan Hewett
- [Climate crisis makes solar the right choice](#) By Graham Parton
- [Planting for a warming world](#) By Lizette Salmon, Gardens for Wildlife Albury-Wodonga Project Officer

COP 25

UN climate talks: Australia accused of 'cheating' and thwarting global deal

Disagreement over Australia's plan to use an accounting loophole to meet its climate target will spill into 2020 after a United Nations conference in Madrid failed to reach consensus on rules to implement the global deal. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/16/un-climate-talks-australia-accused-of-cheating-and-thwarting-global-deal?>

Australia ranked last in global assessment on climate action

Australia's record on climate change has been panned in the latest Climate Change Performance Index tracking nation's efforts to combat global warming. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/cause-for-great-concern-australia-ranked-last-in-global-assessment-on-climate-action?>

Angus Taylor again caught out fiddling more figures – Michael Pascoe

The Minister for the Environment and Energy, Angus Taylor, seems to have a problem with numbers, whether it's the Sydney City Council's travel budget or what year Naomi Wolf was at Oxford. <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/politics/australian-politics/2019/12/16/angus-taylor-emissions-numbers/?>

Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg named Time's Person of the Year

So well deserved, even if Donald Trump doesn't agree! <https://www.smh.com.au/world/north-america/teen-climate-activist-greta-thunberg-named-time-s-person-of-the-year-20191212-p53j5k.html>

Bushfires

Former fire and emergency chiefs push for national bushfire emergency summit

Group calls for 'a big national conversation' with farmers, councils, the military and politicians. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/11/former-fire-and-emergency-chiefs-push-for-national-bushfire-emergency-summit>

Woman brings remains of home lost in NSW bushfires to parliament in climate protest

'We've got no leadership ... we've got nothing,' says Melinda Plesman, who lost her house in Nymboida, near Grafton. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/02/woman-brings-remains-of-home-lost-in-nsw-bushfires-to-parliament-in-climate-protest?>

Sydney smoke prompts NSW environment minister push for climate change action

NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean says "no one can deny" that climate change is to blame for the smoke haze choking Sydney as bushfires burn across NSW. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/this-is-not-normal-minister-urges-action-on-climate-change-20191210-p53jp1.html?>

The world has reacted to Australia being swallowed by flames

Media outlets around the world continue to react to the dozens of blazes burning across the country with the *New York Times* taking aim at Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. <https://www.couriermail.com.au/technology/how-the-world-has-reacted-to-sydney-smoke-haze/news-story/c6782de9b2782287740099cb42ac0176?>

Climate emergency updates

See how climate change has impacted the world since your childhood

Here is an excellent infographic from the ABC showing clearly the choices we make now are crucial <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-06/how-climate-change-has-impacted-your-life/11766018>

Oxford Dictionaries declares 'climate emergency' the word of 2019

Usage of the term has increased 100-fold in the space of 12 months. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/21/oxford-dictionaries-declares-climate-emergency-the-word-of-2019?>

Victoria Falls dries to a trickle after worst drought in a century

One of southern Africa's biggest tourist attractions has seen an unprecedented decline this dry season, fuelling climate change fears. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/07/victoria-falls-dries-to-a-trickle-after-worst-drought-in-a-century?>

Caring for our wildlife

Ozzie the Koala released back to the bush – Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter

Ozzie was rescued from a local farm after dogs chased him up a pear tree. He had a bloody nose and needed a rest. We relocated him nearby to Rowdy Flat reserve. https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2765153183530688&id=194546257258073

Meet Bear, the koala detection dog

Australian working dogs are known for their high energy, strong work ethic and good nature, but what happens when they don't quite fit into farm life and also aren't cut out for domestic life?

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2019/11/meet-bear-the-koala-detection-dog/>

Scientists fear insect populations are shrinking. Here are six ways to help

Insects are small and can inhabit hidden places, so you may not realise how many exist around you. Here are a few ways to help prevent insect decline in your home and elsewhere:

<https://theconversation.com/scientists-fear-insect-populations-are-shrinking-here-are-six-ways-to-help-128213?>

Take action!

Environment Victoria - Join the push for under 1.5°C

In the next few months, the Victorian government will set 2025 and 2030 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Click on the link to see what actions you can take:

<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/join-the-push-for-under-1-5c/>

Wodonga Council

We're being encouraged to provide feedback before 10th January 2020 on Wodonga Council's proposed single-use plastics policy. Here's the online submission link:

<https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Draft-Single-use-Plastics-Policy>

Opinion pieces

Climate winds blowing on Morrison from Liberal party's left – Michelle Grattan

Scott Morrison is picking up that Australia's devastating, prolonged fires are producing a soured, anti-

government mood among many in the community. <https://theconversation.com/grattan-on-friday-climate-winds-blowing-on-morrison-from-liberal-partys-left-128793?>

We push fossil fuels with the zeal of a drug lord - Greg Bourne

The Coalition is too closely linked to the fossil fuel industry to be able to contemplate a future without coal, oil or gas. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/25/the-coalition-is-too-invested-in-the-fossil-fuel-industry-and-not-enough-in-future-generations?>

We are a burning nation led by cowards - Hugh Riminton

Among those determined to do nothing about climate change, the arguments have shifted over time. We know them all too well. But here's a reminder.

<https://10daily.com.au/views/a191119irujf/hugh-riminton-we-are-a-burning-nation-led-by-cowards-20191119?>

Food for thought

Am I normal? Headline stress

While it's not an official diagnosis, some psychologists are using the term "headline stress" to describe the increasing number of people they're seeing who are struggling to cope with the bombardment of bad news in the digital age. <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/personal-best/pillar/in-focus/am-i-normal-headline-stress?>

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 January 22nd. Wishing you all a peaceful and safe festive season.

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 March 24th. 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

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies