

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 19.2.20

### National Climate Emergency Summit

Almost 20 people from the Albury-Wodonga region attended the Climate Emergency Summit in Melbourne last weekend, joining a huge audience in the Town Hall to listen to an impressive line-up of speakers. A key message was that we have the technology to achieve zero net emissions within ten years if we treat this problem as a national security issue, akin to mobilising for war. Market forces alone will be too slow to get us there, so we must persuade our governments, which can only happen if we engage more of the community. Check our Facebook page for photos and comments on the climate summit: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

### Climate Change Act

The most important thing we can do this very moment is support Zali Steggal's Climate Change Act. She'll be introducing a private members' bill on 23 March 2020. Vote here to show your MP how many people in your electorate want the bill supported: <https://www.climateactnow.com.au/>

### WATCH news

#### 'Now's the ideal time to speak about reality of climate change'

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, WATCH convener Lizette Salmon gave a presentation to the Victorian Legislative Assembly into communities tackling climate change. She told the MPs that they need to be more vocal on climate change. Thank you, Lizette, for speaking the truth! You showed great courage. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6629332/politicians-told-to-speak-up-on-climate-change-by-border-activist/?>

#### Border Mail letters to the editor on climate change hit all-time high in 2019

A decade of climate change-themed letters to the editor published in *The Border Mail* show attention is being drawn to the issue more than ever before:

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6608238/what-10-years-of-climate-change-letters-to-the-editor-reveal/?cs=9681>

This article triggered supportive words from Border Mail editor Xavier Mardling, in an email to all subscribers: 'Our country - our wide brown land - is burning, with fires that scientists and firefighters say are undeniably linked to a warming, changing climate. I don't profess to be smarter than scientists and firefighters on the front line, so I'm prepared to fall into line and accept their wisdom. So too, are an increasing number of our letter writers, according research from Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health.'

### Solar panel legislation

WATCH chair, Lauriston Muirhead, is requesting another meeting with Justin Clancy, MP for Albury to lobby for legislation mandating all newly built houses be fitted with solar panels.

### 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 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lizette to be advised of the venue: [lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au)

### Contacting our MPs

#### Make lots of 'noise'!

Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, says we need to make lots of 'noise' to let our local representatives know how we are feeling so we must persist with our phone calls, letters and emails. Quantity is more important than quality. Here are some resources passed on by Sue Dwyer from *Climate for Change*. MP Engagement Groups (MPEGs) were created about a year ago and here's a [guide for running a productive session, templates, examples, suggested issues and](#)

[other resources](#) to make it as easy as possible. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.climateforchange.org.au/>

### **We should be asking our MPs these 14 questions on climate change – Barry Jones**

There are a series of major questions that have never been asked within the Parliament or by the media. Ministers, and especially the Prime Minister, should be asked the following, says Barry Jones:  
<https://www.theage.com.au/national/we-should-be-asking-our-mps-these-14-questions-on-climate-change-20200210-p53za3.html>

#### **Addresses for local MPs**

**Helen Haines, Federal member for Indi** [Helen.Haines.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Helen.Haines.MP@aph.gov.au)  
117 Murphy St, Wangaratta 3677. Phone (03) 5721 7077

**Sussan Ley, Federal member for Farrer** [Sussan.Ley.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Sussan.Ley.MP@aph.gov.au)  
517 Kiewa St (PO Box 672) Albury NSW 2640. Phone (02) 6021 3264

**Justin Clancy, Member for Albury** [albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
612 Dean Street, Albury NSW 2640. Phone: (02) 6021 3042

**Bill Tilley, Member for Benambra**, [bill.tilley@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:bill.tilley@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
PO Box 1719, Wodonga, VIC, 3689. Phone (02) 6009 0808

### **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. Thanks to those who continue to speak the truth and get the message out there. Here's the address if you'd like to contribute: [letters@bordermail.com.au](mailto:letters@bordermail.com.au)

#### **Letters to the editor**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** 'As cheap as it gets' – Jenni Huber  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6624742/your-say-free-power-well-it-doesnt-get-cheaper-than-that/?cs=9940>

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** 'Adani mine needs to go' – Lauriston Muirhead (no link)

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** 'Power with the people' - Kirsten Coates  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6616864/your-say-protesters-scientists-poets-ex-pollies-players-in-the-fight/?cs=9940>

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** 'Solutions will be local' - David Sloane  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6605784/your-say-we-have-the-solutions-second-rate-leaders-do-not/?cs=9940>

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** 'Convolutd argument' - Graham Parton and 'Selling spin and lies' - David Macilwain  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6601769/your-say-gun-club-membership-insignificant-up-to-other-orts/?cs=9940>

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** 'Our chronic failure' - Rev'd S.A. Eiseman  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6598440/your-say-solar-is-not-a-panacea-to-power-outages/?cs=9940>

### **Sustainable Activity Centre SAC**

Sad news. The SAC will be closing permanently due to continuing uncertainty about the implications of the planned remedial works. However, the Facebook page will continue to be a vibrant virtual hub to promote, engage and educate our local community. Thanks to all involved. You will be missed.  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=3179655542048065&id=716522525028058](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3179655542048065&id=716522525028058)

## **#StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)**

After recent successes with GHD & Greyhound, Marsh insurance brokers are in our spotlight. If you can devote an hour of your time in the week 16th-20th March, please contact Jenni Huber (0410 074 900) or [jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com) or Tracey Esler [Tesesler@gmail.com](mailto:Tesesler@gmail.com) (0419470458).

### **Knitting Nannas for Renewables**

Knitting Nannas meet in Albury every Thursday, 12.30 to 1.30pm. They will be in the shade in QEII Square near the Dean St Bus stop. Please contact Jenni Huber on 0410 074 900 or [jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com) to check the location.

### **Big Letters Walk**

The Big Letters made an appearance during the City2City walk on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Les Langmead for details of the next event: [leslangmead@gmail.com](mailto:leslangmead@gmail.com)

### **Adani receives criminal conviction for misleading Queensland government over land clearing**

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/feb/06/adani-receives-criminal-conviction-for-misleading-queensland-government-over-land-clearing?>

### **Greyhound Australia dumps contract with Adani Carmichael Rail Network**

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2020/01/29/greyhound-australia-dumps-contract-adani-carmichael-rail-network?>

### **Next SAAW meeting, 6pm, Thursday 5th March**

At Harry's Hut, Browns Lagoon, Olive St, South Albury. For further information and to receive the StopAdani Albury-Wodonga newsletter, contact Tracey Esler [tesesler@gmail.com](mailto:tesesler@gmail.com) For all updates visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

## **Extinction Rebellion – local groups**

### **Extinction Rebellion Indigo**

A public meeting was held in Beechworth on January 30<sup>th</sup> and attracted around 80 people from the local towns. Another Extinction Rebellion group has been formed by residents of the Indigo Shire. Next meeting is on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 -8.30pm at Wooragee Hall. Contact Bernie Jovaras for details: [jovaras@westnet.com.au](mailto:jovaras@westnet.com.au)

### **Extinction Rebellion Indigo group launches**

'We have jobs, we're business people, and we need to do this' say Bernie Jovaras.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6634295/we-have-jobs-were-business-people-and-we-need-to-do-this/?>

### **Extinction Rebellion Albury Wodonga**

Over 70 people attended a successful action outside Sussan Ley's Albury office on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Participants also hand delivered personal letters to her office.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6622870/this-isnt-normal-climate-activists-protest-in-albury/?>

Next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February. For details of venue please contact

[xralburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:xralburywodonga@gmail.com). Check the Facebook page for news, photos and videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/Extinction-Rebellion-AlburyWodonga>

### **Extinction Rebellion Wangaratta**

A planning meeting was held on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Robin Herry for the outcomes and details of the next meeting. [robonstamps@gmail.com](mailto:robonstamps@gmail.com)

## **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>

**February** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-02/>

**March** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-03/>

## Selected events

**Climate Crisis: National Day of Action, Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 – 5 pm, State Library, Melbourne**

<http://www.climatechange protests.net.au/event/climate-crisis-national-day-of-action-melbourne/>

**Bushfire Forum: Our Community Supporting Recovery, Sunday February 23<sup>th</sup>, 10am**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bushfire-forum-our-community-supporting-recovery-tickets-92684894013?>

**Indigo Power launch, 6pm, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Huon Hill Hotel, Wodonga,**

The Indigo Power community energy retail offer is now ready to roll out across the region and will be launched in Wodonga. If you have any questions, please call us on 1800 491 739, email us at [connect@indigopower.com.au](mailto:connect@indigopower.com.au) or chat via [Facebook](#) or our [website](#).

**Seed Savers Albury Wodonga - yearly calendar**

<https://mailchi.mp/8ab0a94ff500/seed-savers-news-4854825?e=2b83f9d00e>

## 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](mailto:l.salathiel@gmail.com)

### Recent articles

[An early history of climate change science](#) By Lauriston Muirhead

[Wetland wellbeing is our wellbeing](#) By Jonathon Howard

[Water for wildlife in your garden \(not just the big ones!\)](#) By Karen Retra, Wild Pollinator Count

[Put out the fires with tears](#) By Stephen Routledge

## Why are we so divided on climate change?

**Climate change splits the public into six groups**

Understanding them is key to future action. An excellent article by social researcher Rebecca Huntley:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-29/climate-change-global-warming-six-groups-rebecca-huntley/11893384?pfmredir=sm>

Rebecca Huntley says climate change divides the community because it's become a debate about ideology and values rather than science. Listen to this podcast:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/why-are-we-so-divided-on-climate-change/11898456>

## Global heating

**Antarctica logs hottest temperature on record with a reading of 18.3C**

A new record set so soon after the previous record of 17.5C in March 2015 is a sign warming in Antarctica is happening much faster than global average.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/07/antarctica-logs-hottest-temperature-on-record-with-a-reading-of-183c?>

## **Thwaites glacier in West Antarctica is being melted by warm ocean water, new research confirms**

Warm ocean water has been discovered underneath a massive glacier in West Antarctica, a troubling finding that could speed its melt: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/01/30/unprecedented-data-confirm-that-antarcticas-most-dangerous-glacier-is-melting-below/>

## **Food fears grow as swarms of locusts reach Uganda and Tanzania**

Outbreak in east Africa has already devastated crops across a swath of Kenya and Somalia. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/10/food-fears-grow-as-swarms-of-locusts-reach-uganda-and-tanzania>

## **There is no strong, resilient Australia without deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions**

This open letter is supported by 446 scientists with research expertise across the fields of climate, fire and weather science. This open letter is composed of the [full statement](#), [a summary statement](#), and lists of [co-signatories](#) and [references](#). <https://australianbushfiresandclimatechange.com/>

## **Focus on wildlife**

### **'Yackandandah's angel of the bush' - Off Track - ABC Radio National**

Glenda Elliott has spent her life caring for injured, sick and orphaned Australian wildlife and then once rehabilitated, releasing them back into the wild. Now [Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter](#) is busier than ever. A terrific interview: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/kangaloola-wildlife-shelter-bushfire-repeat/11909054?>

### **'Fire and birds' - Saturday Extra - ABC Radio National**

How have Australian birds survived the onslaught of both drought and the recent fires that have ravaged large areas of bird habitats? Sean Dooley from Birdlife Australia discusses. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/fire-and-flight-birds-affected-kangaroo-island-sean-dooley/11893998>

## **Local energy solutions**

### **The power to rebuild - Totally Renewable Yackandandah**

Matt Grogan reflects on the challenges and opportunities that face regional communities in the wake of a fiery summer. <https://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/2020/01/the-power-to-rebuild/>

### **Totally Renewable Yackandandah solar energy project reaches big landmark**

In less than 18 months, Yackandandah homes have generated solar energy that would have been able to run the MCG light towers for almost three years. <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5892815/yackandandah-solar-energy-project-reaches-big-landmark/>

### **Wodonga TAFE's 1500 solar panels**

The 1500 PV panels are now generating 600kW of power at Wodonga TAFE. It's worth watching this one minute video clip: <https://www.wodongatafe.edu.au/Whats-On/News/ArtMID/402/ArticleID/322/Wodonga-TAFEs-Solar-Initiative-is-now-online>.

## **Opinion pieces**

### **The war on climate change has already begun and we are losing. How on Earth are we going to win it?**

We can only win the war on climate change through courage, conviction and a willingness to change. <https://theaimn.com/the-war-on-climate-change-has-already-begun-and-we-are-losing-how-on-earth-are-we-going-to-win-it/>

### **Want to Stop Australia's Fires? Listen to Aboriginal People – Alexis Wright**

Our ancestors survived in a fire-prone landscape for millennia. We can learn from their techniques. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/15/opinion/australia-fires-aboriginal-people.html?>

### **Omnicide: Who is responsible for the gravest of all crimes?**

Some confronting ideas here and a new word ... "omnicide"

<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/danielle-celermajer-omnicide-gravest-of-all-crimes/11838534>

### **Good news stories**

#### **Congratulations!**

Repair Café Albury Wodonga is the winner of this year's Wodonga Council's Community Organisation of the Year. Excellent news!

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=3040944569258630&id=1088817197804720](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3040944569258630&id=1088817197804720)

### **Gems from the ABC**

#### **News Corp's fire fight - Media Watch**

A must watch episode: <https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/episodes/news-corp-fire/11925590>

#### **Talking Pictures with Mike Bowers**

Always a joy! <https://www.abc.net.au/insiders/talking-pictures/11921800>

### **Thankyou...**

Thanks again to friends and supporters who have 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 March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

**WATCH website:** [www.watch.id.au](http://www.watch.id.au)

*Warm regards,*

**Jenny Davies**