

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 18.3.20

### Climate Change Bill

#### Update from Zali Steggall

Due to the current situation, Zali Steggall has decided to defer presentation of the Climate Change Bill from Monday 23 March to a later date. <https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/press-releases/zali-steggall-postpones-presentation-of-climate-change-bill/>

However you can still vote here to show your MP how many people in your electorate want the bill supported: <https://www.climateactnow.com.au/> Fascinating to see how many people have signed from Indi and Farrer. As of yesterday, Indi has 759 votes, slightly more than Adelaide at 757, with Farrer trailing at 238 votes. **Please add your voice now.**

### WATCH news

#### 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)

#### Climate messaging

If you want to engage people who are unsure about climate change, you must use relentlessly positive messages e.g. Australia is a clever country, we developed wifi and we have the know-how to roll out renewable energy, which will create jobs (etc etc). If you combine fear (of a climate crisis) with tangible climate actions, giving people a sense of efficacy, that's fine. But painting a negative picture of the future, with fear messages alone, will lead to fatalistic behaviours; people turning off and continuing live as they always have, possibly living it up even more, because 'what the heck, we're doomed anyway'.

#### Facebook

Check the WATCH Facebook page for stories, photos and comments on the climate summit: [https://m.facebook.com/pg/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/posts/?ref=m\\_notif&mt\\_nav=0](https://m.facebook.com/pg/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/posts/?ref=m_notif&mt_nav=0)

### National Climate Emergency Summit

#### Videos and podcasts

The NCE Summit Videos & Podcasts are now available: <https://mailchi.mp/df4bcee0bcf4/beyond-the-declarations-504411?e=efb5b08ab9>

#### 'Body count'

One of the most moving moments of the Climate Emergency Summit was seeing tears welling in many people's eyes as journalist Paddy Manning spoke about ordinary Australians who've lost loved ones from climate consequences. His book '*Body count: how climate change is killing us*' reveals what climate change really looks like, telling the stories of victims, their families and doctors. '*Body count*' will be out in May 2020.

### #StopAdani Albury Wodonga (SAAW)

#### Marsh protest, Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> - cancelled

In light of the serious health risks surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the overwhelming evidence that early social distancing is critical for preventing spread, we are cancelling the Marsh campaign in Albury including the rostered vigil and the protest on Thursday 19th. We intend to keep the pressure on Marsh so please take some time to send emails and letters. For further information, please contact Jenni Huber 0410 074 900 or [jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com)

## 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. To find out more, please contact Jenni Huber on 0410 074 900 or [jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferruthhuber@gmail.com)

## Big Letters Walk

Contact Les Langmead to find out about the next walk. [leslangmead@gmail.com](mailto:leslangmead@gmail.com)

## Next SAAW meeting – 5.30pm, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Harry's Hut, Browns Lagoon, Olive St, South Albury

To RSVP, 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

### XR NE Vic

The recently formed North East Victorian group of Extinction Rebellion met at the Wooragee Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March to start discussing a range of positive 'local' actions to highlight the urgency of our current climate emergency. These will be further developed over the next few weeks into a regular program of events and activities. A non-violent direct action (NVDA) training day, facilitated by Melbourne Extinction Rebellion, is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm** at the Wooragee Hall and will be confirmed at a later date. We now have well over 100 people expressing interest in our local XR group. Anyone interested in further information or wishing to join our group can contact Bernie Jovaras on 0438281928 or by email at [NEvicxr@protonmail.com](mailto:NEvicxr@protonmail.com)

### XR Albury Wodonga

Meetings are held fortnightly at the moment. Next one is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 359 Kiewa St, South, Albury. For details 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>

## 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

**March 11<sup>th</sup> 'Green power is good'** - Leon Schoff

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6668164/your-say-solar-panels-have-to-go-somewhere-if-we-want-change/>

**February 27<sup>th</sup> 'We need to change'** - Rochelle Schoff

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6647114/your-say-if-not-in-our-backyard-then-whose-backyard/?cs=9940>

**February 19<sup>th</sup> 'Only one safe option'** – Lauriston Muirhead

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6634211/your-say-please-helen-spare-me-the-shock-all-pollies-play-this-game/?cs=9940>

## 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>

**Please check the calendar for any cancellations.**

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

**April** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-04/>

## 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

- [The positives in change](#) By Dr Juliette Milbank
- [Fleeing from climate danger](#) By Alan Hewett and Joan Jones
- [A garden stocktake](#) By Sue Brunskill
- [An emergency in every sense](#) By Lauren Salathiel, Chris McGorlick, Kirsten Coates and Richard Nunn (Yackandandah)

## Help required

### Birallee Neighbourhood House, West Wodonga

We require passionate, enthusiastic, business-minded, strategic, experienced committee members in order to continue the work started by our current management committee. Please contact Amanda Skrypczak (Coordinator) on 60 59 2590, Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm to find out more.

## Local energy solutions

### Indigo Power renewable energy roadshow travels across North East

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6668500/together-we-can-change-renewable-energy-show-on-the-road/?>

Community energy retailer Indigo Power operated in Yackandandah last year before recently launching in the rest of the North East. Customers generate power for their own homes and buy and sell with others in the region. Watch this great little video where Ben McGowan tells the story; [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=835423550292364&id=590525414782180](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=835423550292364&id=590525414782180)

To find out more about Indigo Power, to sign up or become a shareholder, check the website <https://indigopower.com.au> or call 1800 491 739. For the full list of information sessions, visit [indigopower.com.au/roadshow](https://indigopower.com.au/roadshow).

## Update on emissions

### 'Overheating our planet': Andrews government urged to set emissions target for critical decade

Almost 300 Victorian businesses and organisations are urging the Andrews government to set an emissions target for the next crucial decade in step with the global push to keep warming to less than 1.5 degrees. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/overheating-our-planet-andrews-government-urged-to-set-emissions-target-for-critical-decade-20200311-p5495c.html?>

By the end of March, the Victorian government will set targets to reduce emissions over the next decade. Call on Premier Andrews to set targets to keep warming under 1.5 degrees. <https://environmentvictoria.org.au/targets/?>

### Emissions targets not 'ambitious enough': Nationals' Steph Ryan

Here's an interesting positive development in the Victorian National Party <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/emissions-targets-not-ambitious-enough-nationals-steph-ryan-20200228-p545ft.html>

### Be honest Australia, you're not 'meeting and beating' your emissions targets

Christiana Figueres is the former UN climate chief who oversaw the negotiation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and is convenor of the Mission 2020 climate campaign. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/be-honest-australia-you-re-not-meeting-and-beating-your-emissions-targets-20200307-p547u1.html>

## **Australian bushfires emitted the same amount of CO2 as annual air travel**

Australia's black summer took 33 lives, killed one billion animals, destroyed 2439 homes, burnt millions of hectares, wiped billions out of the economy and put a devastating amount of CO2 back into the atmosphere, the first comprehensive overview, compiled by the Climate Council, shows.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2020/03/11/australian-bushfires-climate-council/>

## **How changes brought on by coronavirus could help tackle climate change**

There is a strong link between economic activity and global carbon dioxide emissions, due to the dominance of fossil fuel sources of energy. This coupling suggests we might be in for an unexpected surprise due to the coronavirus pandemic: a slowdown of carbon dioxide emissions due to reduced energy consumption. <https://theconversation.com/how-changes-brought-on-by-coronavirus-could-help-tackle-climate-change-133509?>

## **Global heating**

### **Summer of Crisis – Climate Council**

Our new report shows that climate change has fuelled this [Summer of Crisis](#). It is the first comprehensive overview of the extreme heat and dry conditions leading up to summer, and the human, environmental and economic costs of the extreme weather events we endured.

### **Great Barrier Reef coral bleaching event linked to 'anthropogenic climate change'**

The Great Barrier Reef is facing one of the most widespread coral bleaching events on record, as water temperatures in the Coral Sea spike. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-06/great-barrier-reef-coral-bleaching-anthropogenic-climate-change/12029936?>

### **The Frontline – an excellent resource from The Guardian**

Inside Australia's climate emergency: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/series/the-frontline>

### **The end of coal-fired power can be managed or messy**

Coal is on the way out. It is in the hand of governments to make the transition palatable.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-end-of-coal-fired-power-can-be-managed-or-messy-20200225-p5441n.html>

## **Wildlife matters**

### **Endangered species monitoring program comes to Wodonga**

The Albury Conservation Company's safeguarding endangered species program has begun expanding into Wodonga after monitoring began in Albury in 2018. The Wodonga program will see monitoring installed at 60 sites across the Leneva Baranduda area with particular focus on the squirrel glider, brush-tailed phascogale and spotted-tailed quoll.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6671143/monitoring-to-safeguard-species-both-sides-of-river/>

### **Logging is due to start in fire-ravaged forests. It's the last thing our wildlife needs**

The science on the impacts of post-fire logging is clear: it can significantly impair the recovery of burned ecosystems, badly affect wildlife and, for some animal species, prevent recovery.

<https://theconversation.com/logging-is-due-to-start-in-fire-ravaged-forests-this-week-its-the-last-thing-our-wildlife-needs-132347?>

## **Food for thought**

### **There's no 'deadline' to save the world. Everything we do now has to pass the climate test**

The climate crisis can't be averted, it's here. And with human suffering now a reality, governments can no longer stand idly by, says Guardian environment editor Damian Carrington

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/10/deadline-save-world-climate-test-crisis-governments?>

### **Climate change: how do I cope with our planet's inevitable decline?**

If we are locked in a state of guilt, shame and depression, we may be incapable of mustering motivation. But if we can inspire just a few people to lead greener lives, they may, in turn, inspire others...

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-how-do-i-cope-with-our-planets-inevitable-decline-128593?>

## To lift the spirits

### The wisdom of wombats

A group of wombats is known as a 'wisdom of wombats'. Cute as, with photos from Kangaloola...  
[https://www.creativecowboyfilms.com/blog\\_posts/the-wisdom-of-wombats?](https://www.creativecowboyfilms.com/blog_posts/the-wisdom-of-wombats?)

### Posters of bushfire affected towns

David Pope has drawn these beautiful posters of towns and regions on the south coast of NSW affected by the recent Australian bushfires. They will be published in the newspapers of Australian Community Media (ACM), the publisher of the Border Mail. Posters and postcards will then be available for purchase, to raise funds for the long-term bushfire recovery effort.

<https://www.scratch.com.au/>

### Flash mob for climate action, Bright

An unexpected delight!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3QkPcK2leMJSR6nGHukKEy3jIElvNPbLSnswdoA9de0ICp7lzVKt0e-y8&v=b6aa2s7FRYI&feature=youtu.be>

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**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*