

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 22.7.20

### WATCH news

#### Article about WATCH in the Border Mail

WATCH members have repeatedly expressed concerns about the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC), particularly the large proportion of NCCC members who are affiliated with the fossil fuel industry and the Commission's intent to focus on a gas-driven economic recovery. Well done to Jill Coghlan for her submission to a parliamentary inquiry into the NCCC and The Border Mail for this article in last Wednesday's paper: <https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6833173/climate-group-wants-to-rebuild-after-covid-19-with-with-renewables-not-gas/>

#### Environment groups say they've been shut out of COVID consultation

Greenpeace sent an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister after Covid-19 Commission chair Nev Power falsely claimed to a Senate Committee that he had "consulted" with over 1000 groups, including CANA - Climate Action Network Australia, of which WATCH is a member. You can see the media release [here](#).

#### Young people taking action

Lauriston Muirhead, the Chair of WATCH, wrote to School Strike for Climate SS4C members Eli Davern and Natasha Kronenberg to congratulate them on their online interview with Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley when they performed like seasoned professionals. To see the complete interview if you missed it first time round, please visit the SS4C Facebook page. [https://facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=120630656321297&id=106511547733208](https://facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=120630656321297&id=106511547733208)

#### Free, clean and safe energy, anyone?

Please read this recent *Living Lightly* article by Lauriston. We have rarely seen such a comprehensive statement on the deleterious effects of coal-fired power stations, written so succinctly. Well done Lauriston! [Free, clean and safe energy, anyone?](#)

#### Facebook

Check the WATCH Facebook page for stories, photos and comments: <https://facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth/>

### How to talk about climate change

#### Why it's time to get emotional about climate change - Rebecca Huntley

The science has been settled to the highest degree, so now the key to progress is understanding our psychological reactions. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/05/stop-making-sense-why-its-time-to-get-emotional-about-climate-change>

#### Online event - How to talk about climate change, Wednesday 29th July, 6.30pm

Rebecca Huntley's event on July 13<sup>th</sup> was cancelled at short notice due to a health emergency. The event has been rescheduled and will now take place on Wednesday 29th July at 6.30pm. If you are able to attend on this date, please register via the following link: <https://avidreader.com.au/events/rebecca-huntley-how-to-talk-about-climate-change-in-a-way-that-makes-a-difference>

#### 'How to talk about climate change in a way that makes a difference'

'This book explains whether and how we will choose to solve the climate problem. Immensely important analysis in a great read.' Professor Ross Garnaut

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/how-to-talk-about-climate-change-in-a-way-that-makes-a-difference-rebecca-huntley/book/9781760525361.html>

## **'Life Matters' – ABC Radio National**

This podcast featuring Rebecca Huntley on RN's Life Matters is recommended. The segment is about 40 minutes although there were some technical phone issues early on.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/talkback:how-to-talk-about-climate-change/12387024>

## **Cause for concern**

### **Siberia just experienced its hottest June on record**

Scientists are calling the trend a 'warning cry' <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/siberia-just-experienced-its-hottest-june-on-record-scientists-are-calling-the-trend-a-warning-cry?>

For the first time ever, a town in Siberia has recorded the highest temperature in the Arctic's known history, hitting 38 degrees Celsius. Here is an interview on RN Breakfast:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/temperatures-in-siberia-hit-record-high-amid-heat-wave/12382920>

### **Zombie fires, fire thunderstorms hit Arctic as record heatwave heads into sixth month**

Satellite images of northern Russia are showing strong signatures of so-called zombie fires as the region continues to experience record temperatures.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-19/zombie-fires-and-fire-thunderstorms-hit-arctic/12369818?>

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

### **Samsung Securities pledges no further financial backing for Adani coal after protest**

A company in the Samsung group will not provide any further financial backing for Adani's coal port in Queensland or any of the company's coal projects just days after protests targeted the group's electronics brand. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jul/17/samsung-securities-pledges-no-further-financial-backing-for-adani-coal-after-protest?>

### **This is the video Adani doesn't want you to see**

People from Godda are fighting Adani's coal against considerable odds and at great personal risk. [Share their story and stand with them.](#)

## **Other news**

During June, four insurance companies announced they would not provide insurance services to the Carmichael mine. Unfortunately, Marsh is still providing brokering services. First State Super has announced it will divest from fossil fuel companies and Australian Ethical Super has announced it will remove any investment in Marsh due to its insurance work for Adani.

## **Take action!**

Both Stop Adani and Market Forces have campaigns to keep the pressure up. Take a selfie and send it to Marsh at <https://www.stopadani.com/marshselfie>. Use the link to contact construction companies which are helping to build the coal mine and rail link from the Carmichael mine the coast.

[https://www.stopadani.com/pressure\\_contractors](https://www.stopadani.com/pressure_contractors) Check Market Forces campaigns via their website <https://www.marketforces.org.au/> There are actions around banks, superannuation funds, insurance companies and taxes funding fossil fuels.

## **Knitting Nannas for Renewables**

Knitting Nannas are back meeting every Thursday at 12.30 to 1.30 in QEII Square, carefully socially distancing. Everyone is welcome; BYO your own chair and your knitting if you have some. We continue to knit rugs and donate them to local charities. Listen out for an interview on ABC Goulburn Murray that should be aired soon! Contact Alison Veld [alison.veld@gmail.com](mailto:alison.veld@gmail.com) or Liz Hammond 0429 177 681 [ronlizhammond@gmail.com](mailto:ronlizhammond@gmail.com)

## **Online committee meeting, Thursday 6 August, 7 – 9 pm on Zoom**

Due to Covid 19, the August meeting will be held online. If you would like to participate contact Alison Veld to be sent a meeting link: [alison.veld@gmail.com](mailto:alison.veld@gmail.com). For all updates visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StopAdaniAlburyWodonga/>

## Environmental protection

### Environment Minister Sussan Ley is in a tearing hurry to embrace nature law reform – and that's a worry

The Morrison government on Monday released a long-awaited [interim review](#) into Australia's federal environment law. The ten-year review found Australia's natural environment is declining and under increasing threat. The current environmental trajectory is "unsustainable" and the law "ineffective".  
<https://theconversation.com/environment-minister-sussan-ley-is-in-a-tearing-hurry-to-embrace-nature-law-reform-and-thats-a-worry-141697?>

### Australian environmental law found to be ineffective, outdated - RN Breakfast

Fran Kelly interviews Kelly O'Shanassy, Chief Executive, Australian Conservation Foundation and Peter Burnett, honorary associate professor at the ANU College of Law and former administrator of the EPBC Act <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-environmental-law-found-to-be-ineffective,-outdated/12475664>

### Negotiations to start over Conservation Act review recommendations - RN Breakfast

The Federal Government is moving swiftly to implement a number of recommendations made by a landmark review of the EPBC. Fran Kelly interviews Environment Minister Sussan Ley.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/negotiations-to-start-over-conservation-act-review/12475698>

## 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. With the gradual relaxing of restrictions, we hope there may be some additional events added as the month progresses.

**July** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-07/>

**August** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2020-08/>

## Selected events

### Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA)'s National Bushfire and Climate Summit [Recommendations Panel at 6:00 pm, AEST on 29 July](#)

ELCA are compiling a report which will bring together expert recommendations. These findings will be launched via a free online event hosted by Kerry O'Brien so [register now](#).

### Climate Pastoral Care Conference, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Several presenters will be delivering keynote speeches and workshops including Dr Rebecca Huntley. The cost for all sessions of the conference is \$30. Registrations are due by 5pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. [To register, click here](#). Download the [full program: Climate Pastoral Care Conference](#)

### Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge

This three-part series airs on the ABC premiering on Tuesday 11th August at 8.30pm. Craig Reucassel takes on a challenge to reduce our carbon emissions.  
<https://tvtonight.com.au/2020/07/airdate-fight-for-planet-a-our-climate-challenge.html>

## Extinction Rebellion

**Indigo XR is spreading the climate message despite barriers with virus – Border Mail**  
<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6801980/listen-to-science-on-climate-like-we-have-in-pandemic-says-xr/>

Changing COVID-19 restrictions may have put a spanner in the works of our first Beechworth action but it didn't stop a small crew of XR Indigo people with paint brushes and posters about the Climate Emergency and what we can do about it in our local area. Check out our handiwork.

<https://www.facebook.com/IndigoXR/photos/pcb.121751419580989/121750519581079/>

Anyone interested in knowing more or wishing to join the group can contact Bernie Jovaras on 0438281928 or by email at [NEvicxr@protonmail.com](mailto:NEvicxr@protonmail.com)

## ACF Community Albury Wodonga region

### ACF community online meeting, 2pm, Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Hear from our guest speakers about biodiversity in our region and the review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, why it needs to be fixed and how ACF has suggested that happens. Register at [Meeting registration](#). Please get in touch with us by e-mail at [acf.awr@gmail.com](mailto:acf.awr@gmail.com) Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/512119632769926>

## 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. Articles of 380 words should be submitted to the *Living Lightly* coordinator, Lauren Salathiel: [l.salathiel@gmail.com](mailto:l.salathiel@gmail.com)

### Recent articles

[Restoring the river](#) By Anne Stelling, Parklands Albury Wodonga

[In Search of Lost Fashion](#) By Kirsten Coates

[Fallen trees bring life to forest](#) By Alan Hewett

## Wildlife matters

### Seeking cat enclosures

Gardens for Wildlife Albury Wodonga is planning a series of activities promoting responsible cat ownership, with a focus on cat enclosures. On average, each roaming pet cat kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals per year. Cat enclosures have been shown to improve cat health and reduce the toll on native wildlife. If you have a cat enclosure or know an Albury-Wodonga resident who does, we'd love to hear from you. Please email contact details to: [g4w@wodongalandcare.org.au](mailto:g4w@wodongalandcare.org.au) And please like the G4W Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/G4WAW/>

### Birdwatching increased tenfold last lockdown

Don't stop, it's a huge help for bushfire recovery: <https://theconversation.com/birdwatching-increased-tenfold-last-lockdown-dont-stop-its-a-huge-help-for-bushfire-recovery-141970?>

## Community energy

### Helen Haines says Border cities would 'love to be installing more solar'

Over the past eight weeks, Helen Haines has received 60 submissions and conducted 14 workshops on the topic of designing a blueprint for locally-owned renewables in regional areas.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6818232/border-cities-would-love-to-be-installing-more-solar-says-mp/>

### Interview with Helen Haines, Federal member for Indi

School Strike for Climate member Eli Davern and Helen Haines chatted recently about community energy and climate action. <https://www.facebook.com/helenhainesindi/posts/590332628565013>

### Bright Sparks of Yackandandah

A terrific article about our local town and its solar energy grid.

<https://www.patagonia.com.au/blogs/roaring-journals/bright-sparks-yackandandah-renewable-solar?>

## Fossil fuels

### Australia's coal curse - Saturday Extra, Radio National

Judith Brett, emeritus professor of politics at La Trobe University, discusses the issue which is the subject of Quarterly Essay No 78: *The Coal Curse, Resources, climate and Australia's*

*future*. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/australias-coal-curse/12397326>

## **Super giant HESTA divests coal, commits to 'net zero' investments by 2050**

The super fund for healthcare workers has tightened its climate change policy and started divesting from thermal coal companies. <https://www.smh.com.au/topic/hesta-1n57>

## **Carbon pricing works: the largest-ever study puts it beyond doubt**

In a [newly-published paper](#), here are the results of the largest-ever study of what happens to emissions from fuel combustion when they attract a charge. <https://theconversation.com/carbon-pricing-works-the-largest-ever-study-puts-it-beyond-doubt-142034?>

## **COVID-19**

### **Thousands of 'clean jobs' could tackle COVID-19 unemployment slump**

More than 76,000 jobs could be created nationally on projects that would tackle climate change, new modelling on "clean jobs" commissioned by the Climate Council.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/thousands-of-clean-jobs-could-tackle-covid-unemployment-slump-20200720-p55dna.html?>

### **We've been talking climate change action for 30 years**

Will COVID-19 finally jolt us into gear? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-21/climate-change-coronavirus-halfway-point/12374252?>

## **Food for thought**

### **To build a resilient world, we must go circular. Here's how to do it**

We need to entwine social, environmental and economic progress, and decouple economic growth from unsustainable consumption, while driving concrete and collective actions that speed up the adoption of the circular economy. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/to-build-resilience-to-future-pandemics-and-climate-change-we-must-go-circular/?>

## **Good news!**

### **Regent Honeyeater sightings**

Two Regent Honeyeaters were spotted foraging within a large Spotted Gum near the lookout at Lake Hume dam wall recently. Thanks to Matthew Lincoln and Albury Wodonga Birders for this video.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2007066822678074/permalink/3271287772922633/>

And a Regent Honeyeater was photographed in Gippsland five years after release from Chiltern.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6828896/sighting-five-years-on-a-positive-for-endangered-bird-species/?>

### **Congratulations!**

Repair Café Albury Wodonga came second in the 2020 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards and received a Highly Commended in the Community Partnership and Collaboration category.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6827510/repair-cafe-albury-wodonga-stitches-up-again-in-prestigious-awards/?>

## **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 August 19<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**