



**JECO**  
The Jewish Ecological Coalition

## JECO eNews for May 2013

What does the JECO logo have to do with the festival of Shavuot which starts on the evening of Tuesday, May 14? In biblical times Shavuot was an agricultural festival where offerings of the first fruits, *Bikkurim*, were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. Only first fruits of the seven species were permitted as offerings - have a look at the JECO logo to identify the seven fruits and grains. During Shavuot we celebrate not only the giving of the Torah, but also our connection to the land.

You can now make an online tax deductible donation to JECO at <http://www.givenow.com.au/jeco>.

JECO is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/JECO.AUS>.

### Calendar

#### Thursday, 2 May, 6:30 pm, "Bag It" Film Night

The Port Phillip EcoCentre will screen the documentary "Bag It" about plastic pollution followed by a talk by environmentalist and plastics campaigner Tim Silverwood. Tim has sailed across the Pacific Ocean to research the 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch'. Read more at <http://www.ecocentre.com/node/978>.

#### Sunday, 5 May, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Foray among the Funguses - An Autumn Wander in the Wombat Forest

Three hour wander through Wombat Forest to discover the diversity of fungi in the Wombat Forest. Cost \$25. Read more at [http://www.alisonpouliot.com/projects\\_fungi\\_ecology.php](http://www.alisonpouliot.com/projects_fungi_ecology.php).

#### Sunday, 12 May, CERES Understanding Soils Course with Annie Raser Rowland

Learn what plants eat and how to repair, build and maintain the soil in your garden. Course fee \$95. Read more at <https://weteachme.com/ceres/understanding-soils-with-annie-raser-rowland>.

#### 23 - 24 May, Solar 2013 Conference and Expo

This event at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre showcases the latest in solar technologies. Although this is a solar industry event, registration is free. Read more at <http://solarexhibition.com.au/>.

### News

#### A bike made out of cars

This video clip is from our JECO president, Tom Osborn, who is an avid bike rider. Have a look at how old car parts can

be recycled into bicycles. See <http://bicycledbikes.com/>.

### Germany and renewable energy

Germany with Europe's number one economy has doubled its renewable share of its total electricity consumption in the past six years. Post Fukushima the German government voted to close eight of the country's nuclear plants immediately. At the same time their economy grew by 3% helped by a renewable energy industry. Read more at <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2013/renewable-germany-the-very-model-of-a-new-energy-order-53357>.

### Solar device to purify water

An Israeli company, SunDwater, has developed a distiller that uses solar power to purify water. This system is ideal in countries where people need to drill expensive wells, buy bottled water or use contaminated water. Read more at <http://www.sundwater.com/>.

## What's happening in your shtetl

Council	Date	Event	Link
<b>Glen Eira</b>	May 15 7:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>Sustainable Home - Cutting your power bills</b> Glen Eira Town Hall	email: mail@gleneira.gov.au Phone: 9524 3333
<b>Port Phillip</b>	May 14 6:30 - 8:00 pm	<b>Solar Energy Workshop</b> Info on a range of topics plus questions will be answered. Middle Park Community Centre, Cnr Nimmo & Richardson St, Middle Park	<a href="http://www.enviroehub.com.au/whats-happening-in-your-hood/events-calendar/event-item?eventId=633">http://www.enviroehub.com.au/whats-happening-in-your-hood/events-calendar/event-item?eventId=633</a>
<b>Stonnington</b>	Ongoing	<b>Indigenous History Walk</b> There are 11 Indigenous history markers installed throughout Kooyong, Prahran, South Yarra and Windsor.	Contact Stonnington History Centre on 8290 1411.
<b>Bayside</b>	Ongoing	<b>Bayside Community Nursery</b> 319 Reserve Road, Cheltenham Sells indigenous plants, grasses and trees at wholesale prices	Open to the public Thursday from 10:00 to Noon.
<b>Boroondara</b>	Ongoing	<b>Boroondara Bush Walkers</b> Join a bush walking group.	<a href="http://www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/">http://www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/</a>
<b>Frankston</b>	May 6	<b>Launch of Halve Your Waste Program</b> Join 1000 households to waste less.	Contact 9768 1628

### Green Tip

Waste less food tip. Leftover wine can be frozen in ice cube trays and used for cooking.

You should do your own appraisal of products and services reported. JECO cannot take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided.

The JECO Committee welcomes input to and comments about JECO eNews.

JECO works to deepen the Jewish community's commitment to caring for the earth. We believe there is a religious as well as a moral obligation to protect the environment. To this end we work with Jewish, secular and multi-faith groups in supporting activities that promote sustainability.

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