



# JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

## JECO eNews for December 2013

Tom Osborn, the JECO President, reports on Mitzvah Day.

JECO's 2013 Mitzvah Day activity was an [artistic piece](#) of bay pollution research and practical clean-up run by the Port Phillip Baykeeper, Neil Blake.

Whenever we do something like this in the community it attracts attention and often stimulates interest and enquiries. As we were working our way up St Kilda's South Beach, collecting rubbish and separating straws and bottle caps for the subsequent art piece, a family approached and the kids asked if they could add some rubbish they had collected into our bags. It was a great opportunity to explain what we were doing.

From the relatively small area of South Beach we collected about 225 straws and 25 bottle caps. We later formed these into an eye on the beach as a symbol of the community needing to see the impact of pollution, particularly the needless waste of one-use items like plastic straws.

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

**Wednesday, 27 November - Thursday, December 5**

#### Happy Hannukah

Celebrate Hannukah this year in a more eco-friendly way. For some great Hannukah craft ideas check out <http://www.inhabitots.com/7-eco-friendly-ways-to-celebrate-hanukkah-with-your-children/hanukkah-1/>.

**Sunday, 01 December, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Free Bike Riding Skills Course**

Last chance this year to learn to ride your bike. More info: [jeco.org.au](http://jeco.org.au).

**Monday, 02 December, 6:30 pm, BZE Monthly Discussion Group**

Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth campaigns coordinator, will speak on the many community groups that are working to oppose the development of a CSG industry in Victoria. More info: <http://bze.org.au/events/discussion-group>

**Wednesday, 04 December, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Launch of the book "Four Degrees of Global Warming: Australia in a Hot World"**

More info: <http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/3618-four-degrees-of-global-warming>

**News****The Sahara Forest Project exceeds expectations**

A pilot project in Qatar using solar power and sea water to grow food in desert greenhouses has proved more successful than expected. Read more at <http://sourceable.net/qatar-pilot-farm-brings-life-to-the-desert/>.

**Sustainable palm oil and indigenous people**

This month was the 11th annual Roundtable meeting on sustainable palm oil in Indonesia. Orangutan conservation groups dominated the discussions. Less well known is the situation of indigenous people who are displaced by the palm oil plantations. Read more at <http://theconversation.com/sustainable-palm-oil-must-consider-people-too-20443>.

**Israeli bike alarm**

No more excuses for not riding your bike with the invention of this tiny alarm to stop bike theft. Read more at <http://nocamels.com/2013/11/meet-the-tiny-gadget-that-will-sound-the-alarm-if-your-bike-is-being-stolen/>.

**What's happening in your shtetl****Glen Eira**

Neighbourhood Sustainable Gardening Program

Ongoing

More info: [http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment\\_sustainability/Neighbourhood\\_Sustainable\\_Gardening\\_Program](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment_sustainability/Neighbourhood_Sustainable_Gardening_Program).

**Port Phillip**

Terrarium workshop for kids

Sunday, 01 December, 10:00 am - 11:30 am, Port Phillip Ecocentre

More info: <http://www.enviroehub.com.au/whats-happening-in-your-hood/events-calendar/event-item?eventId=716>

**Stonnington**

Summer in your patch (sustainable gardening)

Thursday, 05 December, 7:00 pm -9:00 pm, Malvern Town Hall

More info: <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/events/summer-in-your-patch/>

### **Bayside**

How to lose 2.5kg off your waste - Green Cone Project

Ongoing

More info: [http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/caring\\_for\\_bayside/greencones.htm](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/caring_for_bayside/greencones.htm)

### **Boroondara**

Get started with worm farming and composting

Ongoing

More info: <http://compostrevolution.com.au/boroondara/>

### **Frankston**

Action Sweetwater Creek - Environmental Friends Group

Working bees Thursdays, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

contact : Jenny 9787 5731

### **Green Tip**

Try a hand held paper fan this summer to keep cool. An oldie, but a goodie!

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.

[forward to a friend](#)

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