

JECO eNews – July 2017

Position vacant

Looking for some volunteer editing work that will make a good addition to your CV?

JECO is looking for someone to edit eNews that is sent out once every 2 months or so. Articles and links will be sent to you and your job would be to collate these into an interesting format. There is also scope for you to write articles relevant to JECO's aims.

For examples of past issues see <http://www.jeco.org.au/enews/>

If you're interested, please email president@jeco.org.au

Upcoming events

The power of renewables

Everyone seems to be talking about renewable energy these days. What is its potential? Could the world be totally powered by renewables? How could renewables build the political power we need to protect the climate?

Join us for bagel brunch and to hear what Dan Cass has to say about all of this and more.

Dan Cass is strategist at The Australia Institute, innovation fellow at EnergyLab, honorary associate at Sydney Business School and on the organising committee for the Deborah Cass Prize for Writing.

He has been involved in climate issues since 1991 when he worked for the country's first climate campaign organisation, Greenhouse Action Australia. Dan was a science museum curator in his first career. He has an honour science degree in the history and philosophy of science.



When? Sunday 20th August at 10am

Where? 37 Margaret St, Carnegie

How much? Small note donation requested

Please let us know if you're planning to coming so we know how many chairs (and bagels!) we'll need.

Email flitman@optusnet.com.au

Music for a warming world

Rabbi Jonathan invites you to come along to this gig that could bring hope for the future. "A stunning visual and musical event that informs, moves and entertains." This is a fundraiser to support the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

When? Sunday 13th August. Doors open 2pm. Please be seated by 2.30pm for show start.

Where? Mercy Hub, 617 Nicholson St, Carlton North

How much? Tickets by donation. Minimum donation requested \$10. Generous donation \$20. Serious ARRCC sponsor \$50.

To secure a seat please book at www.trybooking.com/QJL . See also www.musicforawarmingworld.org

Be cool & creative while you combat climate change

Are you aiming to send zero waste to landfill? Come and see JECO member Eva's incredible zero-waste garden and home, featuring creative composting systems. This interactive workshop will inspire you and arm you with tips to save money and save the planet.

Glen Eira Council is also offering this workshop led by our very own Eva, but they currently have a waiting list of 50! Eva has kindly agreed to run a special session for JECO, but you'd better get in quick!

The session is free, but is limited to 25 people. Book through [Try Booking](#).

When? Sunday 10th September, from 10.30 am

Where? Eva's home in Caulfield – address supplied once you have booked.

How much? Gold coin donation requested.



Edible weed walk

What if many of the weeds in our garden were just as edible as the vegetables we tend beside them? What if some of these free, all-too-easy-to-grow uninvited guests were so nutritionally dense that they are just about the healthiest things you could possibly eat? What if many of them also had medical traditions dating back centuries? Join JECO as Adam Grubb (www.veryediblegardens.com.au/) leads us into the world of edible weeds.

Register at [Try Booking](#) – Numbers strictly limited. We need minimum numbers by 29 Sept for this to proceed. For more information, see the article later in this eNews or contact Tammy 0409 557 557.

When? Sunday 15th October, 2-3:30 pm

Where? Elster Creek (Elwood Canal) – exact starting point TBA after registration

How much? Adults \$15, Children 5-16 \$10, under 5 free, Family \$40.



Reverse garage sale for Mitzvah Day

Ready to declutter but don't want to just send stuff to landfill? JECO has researched and found a number of places where things can be taken to be reused, repurposed and/or recycled. See the ['Recycling stuff' page on our website](#), or bring things to our Reverse Garage Sale on Mitzvah Day and we'll arrange for it to go to where it needs to go.

The list of items we'll be collecting includes computers and IT equipment (including DVDs, CDs, VHS, cassette tapes and cases, floppy disks), batteries, bicycles, bras, mobile phones, hearing aids, spectacles, children's clothes, shoes and books, musical instruments, sporting equipment in good condition, towels, blankets and (flat) sheets, pillowcases, face washers, used postage stamps and more.

If you'd like to help out on the day please email Evelyn president@jeco.org.au

When? Sunday 19th November

Where? More details closer to the date

How much? Free!



Other events that may be of interest

Community garden



The Caulfield South Community House has a community garden that is open to the public on the second Sunday of every month. Membership of the community garden costs \$20 a year, and entitles full access to the garden and all programs and activities in the Community House. Volunteers can assist with garden design, planning, planting, watering, pruning, organic composting and general garden maintenance. The Community House is at 450-452 Kooyong Rd, Caulfield South. See www.csch.org.au

Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power - Al Gore's new film

Former US vice president Al Gore has produced a follow-up to his award-winning 2006 documentary, An Inconvenient Truth.

Showing at Palace and Classic cinemas in August/September. Also being shown by several organisations as a fundraiser. The following link will take you to [a trailer](#).



Featured article: Weeds no longer

- a report from our vice president Tammy Taylor of her edible weed walk with her family a few years ago.

Dandelions, chickweed and blackberry nightshade are not pesky weeds to be eradicated from the garden but rather are delicious, nutritious additions to salads and soups. This is what we learnt from an Edible Weeds Walk run by Very Edible Gardens (VEG - <http://www.veryediblegardens.com>) a few years ago. We were a group of 30 and the setting was the Merri Creek, near CERES in East Brunswick. Adam Grubb was our guide and explained that most annual weeds are not only edible but also taste good and are nutritionally dense - dandelions are the second most nutritionally dense vegetable ever tested by the US Department for Agriculture. Many also have significant medicinal benefits. Kol Hakavod to my three kids (aged 10, 7 and 3) who momentarily overcame their normal fussiness and readily tucked into anything that was offered to them. The bravery award went to my elder son, Leon, who was the first of the group to try the stinging nettles - they have to be pinched quickly and firmly without hesitation to prevent stinging. My three year old daughter really entered the spirit of the day by wandering off and eating anything she could get her mitts on until we brought her back to the group and explained the potential dangers. Adam kept stressing that although MOST weeds are edible there are some that are poisonous and can be fatal.

Not only was this potentially a survival lesson (although I do wonder how long we could survive on nothing but weeds if stranded away from civilisation) but choosing weeds over cultivated greens, or other farm produce, clearly has environmental benefits. They can be found very locally, especially if you are not a keen gardener, and require no water except for rain water. They are truly organic, requiring no fertilisation or bug spraying.

Further reading

If you wish to find out more, here is a selection of books and websites:

Useful Weeds at Our Doorstep by Pat Collins - this can be obtained by contacting Very Edible Gardens.

Edible Weeds and Garden Plants of Melbourne by Doris Pozzi (www.edibleweeds.com.au/)

Adam Grubb's article in The Age - <http://www.veryediblegardens.com/about-us/media-appearances/189-edible-weeds-in-the-age>

www.weedyconnection.com - an online database by Diego Bonetto.

The two-hour VEG walks usually take place by the Merri Creek in Brunswick East and cost \$20/\$16 concession with a 10% discount for groups of three or more. As mentioned earlier in this eNews, VEG has agreed to run this course for JECO closer to the bagel belt on Sunday 15th October.



What's a repair café?

It's a place where you bring your broken stuff and learn how to fix it for free.

How does it work?

Volunteer fixers offer their time to share their repair skills and help you fix your broken stuff.

What kinds of things get fixed?

This depends on the people who volunteer their time to fix things. Potentially ... (small) electrical appliances, mechanical things, clothing ...

Where is it?

The Melbourne Repair Café in Yarraville runs on the first Sunday of each month from 10am-1pm in the Yarraville Community Centre at 59 Francis St.

But that's a long way away!

For a lot of us, yes, so JECO is looking at partnering with the Port Phillip Eco Centre (PPEC) to set one up at the PPEC in St Kilda.

Wow! That's so cool!!

Sure is! Interested in getting involved? We need fixers as well as 'administrators'. Once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

How do I get involved?

Contact Evelyn president@jeco.org.au with your contact details (phone + email) and some information about the kinds of things you can help with.

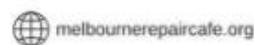
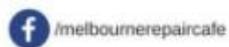
We're particularly keen to have a licensed electrician or someone who is a qualified tester and tagger.

MELBOURNE REPAIR CAFE

- Bring your broken stuff & learn how to fix it for free
- Become a volunteer fixer & share your repair skills
- Connect with others who share your passion for repair



First Sunday of the month @ 10am-1pm | Yarraville Community Centre, 59 Francis Street



In other news

Five reasons why climate action can't be Trumped

- Some positive news from Tim Flannery, Chief Climate Councillor, Climate Council

1. The Paris Agreement is global.

The US, though powerful and a large emitter, is still just one country. China, Germany, France, UK, India and over 147 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement and show no signs of backtracking.



2. Renewables are unstoppable.

Trump may favour fossil fuels, but he can't beat economics. Solar and wind are now the cheapest form of new power in many countries, like Australia. Renewable power will continue to drop in cost as it continues to be dramatically scaled up. Just ask one of the countries capitalising on it - China. China will invest \$360 billion in renewable energy through to 2020, creating 13 million more jobs in the process.

3. US States are taking the lead.

US states are already leading on clean energy, including the Republican stronghold of Texas, and one of the world's largest economies, California.

4. Leadership is also coming from the world's largest companies.

95 global corporations (many of them based in the US) – including Apple, Coca-Cola, GM, Goldman Sachs, Google, Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft, Unilever, and even Walmart – have committed to 100% renewables in their operations.

5. The rest of the world is already responding.

The EU and China have just announced they will strengthen their climate ties. The EU has promised to give China €10m to rollout a national emissions trading system. This comes on top of indications they could levy 'carbon taxes' on US imports. International markets are also signalling this as a damaging move for the US, with US energy stocks taking a plunge. It is likely the U.S. will be one of the biggest victim of this decision, missing out on countless business opportunities and becoming increasingly uncompetitive.

In 50 years' time I suspect the history books will note Trump's actions as farcical. But this story's ending will be written by us, the people of the world who dared to stay strong, stand together and light the way to a better future.

So you think it's OK to use plastic because it can be recycled

(with apologies for the fact that the stats quoted here are from the US)

"Imagine eight football fields covered thickly with plastic bottles. This is equivalent to [the number of plastic beverage bottles discarded in the U.S. every five minutes](#). Now imagine a line of plastic water bottles going around the planet five times. This would be equivalent to the number of plastic bottles discarded every week in the U.S., just for water!



Not all recycling is equally valuable. True cradle-to-cradle recycling is the most valuable because it conserves virgin materials. Plastic recycling is generally not cradle-to-cradle, but just downcycling to fill or fluff or other stuff that does not stem the demand for more virgin material.

Most significantly, plastic pollution will not be solved by recycling because it doesn't stop the continual flow of new virgin-material plastic disposable goods every day that enter our environment like a giant oil spill. We need to STOP plastic pollution at the source by phasing out single-use plastics and plastic packaging."

Read the full article, The myth of the recycling solution, here:

<http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/pft/2015/8/23/the-myth-of-the-recycling-solution>

Floppy disk recycling

Got any old 3.5" floppy disks that you'd like to get rid of?

Bring them to our Mitzvah Day reverse garage sale in November ... or if you can't wait that long to get rid of them, contact Evelyn president@jeco.org.au and arrange to pass them on to her sooner for recycling.



Floppy disks and other computer e-waste including equipment (cables, printers, notebooks, mobile phones & batteries, chargers etc) can be collected in e-waste recycling boxes available from Storage King for \$3.50. These boxes can then be returned (filled) to Storage King. Or bring them to our Reverse Garage Sale on Mitzvah Day (19th November).

Do you live in Kooyong?

(Includes Balwyn, Kew, Hawthorn, Camberwell)

ARRCC and other faith-based orgs are looking for a few people who have some time in the next six weeks to gather signatures for the Community Climate Petition in Kooyong. Can you help?

Over the last several months, [ARRCC](#) has joined with other people of faith to gather tens of thousands of signatures in around 90 electorates across Australia to a Community Climate [Petition](#) calling for more ambitious climate policies. People signing the petition do not have to be people of faith, but the petition will be distinctive in that it is driven by people from faith communities, who are not the usual advocates in this area. ARRCC aims to influence the Climate Policy Review happening in the second half of 2017. Growing interest in the campaign has led extending the deadline to August 7th.

In general, ARRCC has simply welcomed help from any volunteers who have come forward, wherever they're located. However, they would especially like to cover two key Melbourne electorates: **Kooyong**, electorate of Hon. Josh Frydenberg, Minister for the Environment (includes Balwyn, Kew, Hawthorn,

Camberwell) and **Maribyrnong**, electorate of Bill Shorten, Opposition Leader (includes Sunshine North, Braybrook, Maribyrnong, St Albans, Essendon).

Can you help? If you happen to **live or work** in either of these two electorates and could support the effort there, please contact Susan Duric at Susan.Duric@caritas.org.au (and cc info@arrcc.org.au) or 02 8306 3127 or 0411 643 179. Susan will talk you through the details, and support is offered along the way.

... and talking about ARRCC petitions

JECO committee member Jonathan Keren-Black in the news:

Religious leaders occupy environment minister's office to protest Carmichael coalmine

Rabbi, Uniting church reverend, former Catholic priest and Buddhist leader call for Frydenberg to withdraw support for mine



 Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black is joined by seven other religious leaders occupying Josh Frydenberg's office in Melbourne. Photograph: Supplied

[See the full article in The Guardian.](#)

Glen Eira City Council Sustainability newsletter

Council has a sustainability newsletter that it emails to interested people once a month. Topics in the last two months have included:

- news of Council's Recycling A-Z guide
- Mattress recycling
- Electric versus gas – what is more efficient?
- What to do with your waste if you don't have a compost bin (see www.sharewaste.com)
- Green cleaning workshop
- Zero waste birthday parties
- Cafes minimising waste (see <https://www.responsiblecafes.org/>)

To subscribe, contact Council on 9524 3333.

Something to think about

The Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Let's scale that to 46 years. We have been here for 4 hours. Our industrial revolution began 1 minute ago. In that time, we have destroyed more than 50% of the world's forests.

This is not sustainable.



What is Climate for Change?

- From JECO Vice President Tammy Taylor



According to a recent survey by The Climate Institute, one-third of Australians would like more guidance on effective actions they can take against climate change. If you are amongst those who wish to make a difference but unsure where to start, try hosting a 'Climate for Change' gathering, or find a friend who is hosting one and secure yourself an invitation.

I had been intrigued for a while about the Climate for Change model – described as Tupperware-style parties designed 'to create the social climate in Australia for effective action on climate change' but had been deterred from organising one for myself for fear that my friends would all invent imaginative excuses to avoid spending their Sunday evening discussing climate change. Once I finally worked up the confidence to take the plunge I was pleasantly surprised that nearly all those I invited responded positively and actually turned up on the night, and I don't think it was just the promise of great food and mulled wine on a cold winter evening!

Our facilitator, Amaryll, showed us a short video and encouraged lively discussion followed by a 'call to action'. At the end of the evening my guests departed not with new plastic containers but with ideas and tools to take action against climate change.

If you like to spend your evenings having dinner and interesting conversation with your friends then consider arranging a gathering for yourself, either through the Climate for Change website (www.climateforchange.org.au) or by contacting Amaryll directly (get [in touch with us](#) and we'll give you her details).

Climate for Change is a volunteer-powered not-for-profit organisation that wants to create the social climate in Australia for effective action on climate change. A big part of Climate for Change's process is supporting people to host 'gatherings', where a trained Climate for Change facilitator guides a discussion around the whats and whys of climate change and how we can best act.

Interested in hosting a Climate for Change gathering? Go to <http://www.climateforchange.org.au/host>

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can preview the video that's shown at Climate for Change gatherings on the [Resources page](#) of our website.



Snippets

From the news

- Woolworths, Coles and Harris Farm Markets ditch plastic bags
<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/woolworths-ditches-plastic-bags/news-story/9333ba06907457105729b98ecc276469>
- Elon Musk's Tesla, France's Neoen win landmark SA battery tender
<http://www.afr.com/news/elon-musks-tesla-frances-neoen-win-landmark-sa-battery-tender-20170707-gx6jek>
- An Israeli solar panel 'tree' has been planted in central France
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-solar-panel-tree-is-planted-in-central-france/>
- Whilst Israel is becoming a world solar leader in places like Africa, so far it is a slow achiever at home http://www.timesofisrael.com/with-1b-africa-deal-israels-solar-power-exports-eclipse-local-usage/?utm_source=Start-Up+Daily&utm_campaign=f3da04f056-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb879fad58-f3da04f056-55013109
- New power generation: Home battery sharing could build virtual public utilities
<http://www.smh.com.au/business/new-power-generation-home-battery-sharing-could-build-virtual-public-utilities-20170416-gvlvnr.html>
- New AEMO CEO Audrey Zibelman, a ray of sunlight amidst the gloom of dirty coal power mongers, interviewed by Geraldine Doogue
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/audrey-zibelman/8400690>

Other web pages of interest

- Interested in regular, nice factual updates on electric vehicles? See <https://transportevolved.com>
- Tips for reducing food waste <http://www.ozharvest.org/food-saver/>
- What the law says about using your reusable containers
<https://gippslandunwrapped.com/2016/08/18/the-law-using-reusable-containers/>
- Getting rid of stickers on fruit <http://www.mnn.com/green-tech/research-innovations/blogs/brilliant-idea-get-rid-produce-stickers>