



JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

ABN 52 768 480 221

JECO eNews - August 2018

Upcoming events

[Speakers this Sunday \(5th August\) - select this link for details](#)

Editorial

This eNews has been a long time coming. The last two editions were masterfully put together by Tammy Taylor, but like several others on the JECO committee, she is finding it difficult to fit JECO into an otherwise very busy life.

So JECO is now at another watershed moment; with several members of our committee indicating that they will not be continuing their involvement next year, are there others willing to take their place? Or should JECO shut down altogether?

In this edition we report on some of our recent activities, including the very well-attended and engaging panel discussion we hosted at [Limmud Oz](#), a most informative [talk by Richard Keech](#) on tips for making your home more sustainable, and an short update from the [St Kilda Repair Café](#) that we co-host.

We also have some other activities coming up, including another talk this Sunday (5th August) [[click here for flyer](#)], a possible [visit to a new housing estate in Cape Paterson](#) where all homes are minimum 7.5 stars, and our annual '[reverse garage sale](#)' – if we can find a garage we can use for it!

We also feature a [special article by David Kault](#), one of JECO's newest members who lives in far north Queensland.

So read on, and please send us your [feedback on the articles in this eNews](#), [where you think JECO should go from here](#), and [how you would like to be involved in JECO in the future](#).

Do you have a garage we can use for a few days?

For the past two years, JECO has held a 'Reverse Garage Sale' on Mitzvah Day, where people bring items they no longer need that we can recycle. The garage we have used for each of these may not be available this year, so we are looking for an alternative location.

Mitzvah Day this year is on Sunday 18th November, and we would need the garage for that day for collection of goods, and for a few days after as some of the items can

only be collected by the recyclers on a weekday.

If you can help out, please email flitman@optusnet.com.au

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Keep cups

JECO has a number of BPA-free 400 mL keep cups available for sale at \$2 each.



Contact Evelyn flitman@optusnet.com.au if you are interested.

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Jeco's next committee meeting ... possibly it's last?

JECO committee meetings are open to anyone who would like to come along to contribute ideas or even just observe what we do. The committee is particularly keen for new members to join us.

At our AGM (scheduled for Sunday 25th November) we will be looking in particular for someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer. Our secretary is also expecting her first child in November (mazal tov Jaclyn!) so we will probably be needing someone to 'stand-in' in this role, at least in the short-term, and others on the committee have indicated that they will not be staying on the committee beyond the AGM.

In addition to these, committee members without special roles are always welcome.

If we don't get enough people willing to take on roles on the committee, JECO

will not be able to continue to operate.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday 2nd September at 9:30am** at **1 Cranham St, Caulfield**. If you would like a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting, please email flitman@optusnet.com.au

Hope to see you there!

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Repair café

When: 2nd Sunday of each month (eg Sunday 12 August)
from 2-5pm (try coming 3:30pm to avoid the initial rush)

Where: Port Phillip EcoCentre – 55A Blessington St, St Kilda

What: As at July 2018 ... 108 items fixed, another 49 needing extra parts. 296 kg saved from landfill.

Cost: Nil

See www.stkildarepaircafe.org.au for more information.



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Visit to Cape Paterson

“Our vision is to create a benchmark for sustainable living in a location unlike any other. The Cape at Cape Paterson brings together the expertise of local builders and sustainability experts, to create a modern community that is one with the environment.”

220 home sites, with requirements to build homes that are **at least** 7.5-star energy efficient (one design is 10-star!), aimed among other things 'to promote sustainable building design all over Australia to raise standards in the building industry and to leave a legacy for our children'.

Sound interesting?

JECO is looking to organise a day trip to this development sometime in December or January, and we plan to offer transport to the Cape by minibus to a maximum of 10 people, at a cost of \$10 per person for the day. Please email flitman@optusnet.com.au if you would like to register your interest in this outing.

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Sustainable House Day

On Sunday 16th September a number of sustainable houses will be open to the public as part of Sustainable House Day. For more information go to <https://sustainablehouseday.com>.

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Top talk on top tips

A report by Marilyn Snider

Richard Keech was invited to share his expert knowledge at a recent JECO meeting. Richard's primary area of interest is energy-efficiency and renewable-energy technologies and their role in society's response to climate change. An experienced engineer and now senior assessor with ecoMaster, he posed several questions:

- Which is better for heating - electricity or gas?
- How should we prioritise home improvements related to energy?
- What are the economics of solar panels?
- Is double glazing worth the cost?
- Does it make sense to get a battery or go off-grid?

Richard encouraged a home energy efficiency approach called ENERGY FREEDOM. By looking at lighting, draught proofing, window insulation, appliances and cooking, heating and cooling, hot water, monitoring and control and finally solar power, Richard presented often-simple measures to bring our homes to an energy efficient state, whilst aiming for an annual energy

consumption less than generation. The evening was interactive and alive with questions from an appreciative audience.

A copy of Richard's PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from [this website](#).

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JECO at Limmud Oz 2018

JECO's input to Limmud Oz this year resulted in:

- participants being encouraged to bring their own water bottles and keep cups, which resulted in far less bottled water being given out
- the coffee vendor offering 50c discount for coffee sold to people bringing their own keep cup They also had a number of keep cups for sale, and the food they sold was all paper-wrapped or sold on paper plates
- ... continuing the coffee theme, a session run by Evelyn Flitman on 'Tikkun Olam – saving the world one coffee cup at a time'
- a panel discussion hosted by JECO on the most important Jewish value to pass on to the next generation, in which all members of the panel were asked how environmental issues fitted in with their chosen value. The panel discussion was attended by about 70 people.

The panel discussion was filmed (thank you Tom) and has now been edited & uploaded (thanks again Tom for organising) to YouTube. You can view it at our new JECO 'channel' at <https://youtu.be/ABLMSBJDMYw>

Email flitman@optusnet.com.au if you would like a copy of Evelyn's PowerPoint presentation (which covers more than coffee cups!)

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Feature article:

Northern Development and Destruction

David recently joined JECO after meeting a Rabbi attending an Adani protest in Townsville. It was suggested that JECO members might be interested in something from the perspective of a Jewish environmentalist living in North Queensland. There is a link below to David's full article but here are some extracts.



I have lived in Townsville for 43 years. However, I still have some attachment to my Jewish roots. In recent years my wife and I have moved to semi-retirement on a 28 acre hobby farm we call Gan Aeden, on Townsville's outskirts. We have been trying to establish a small exotic fruit orchard on about 20% of our land with minimal interference to most of the native woodland.

We have worked on the orchard an amount perhaps equivalent to a half time job for most of the years since 2002. The result is that, even now, we are quite a bit short of self-sufficiency. This failure doesn't just reflect my incompetence and choice of some less suitable species - no one around here can make a living out of 28 acres let alone make a living whilst leaving the majority of the land to nature.

My experience gives the lie to permaculture enthusiasts and gardening gurus who suggest "self-sufficiency" is possible. Certainly, there is better soil in a few places and, with large scale dams and irrigation, total obliteration of nature, a lot of machinery and agri-chemicals dependent on fossil fuel, some reasonable productivity can be obtained. This productivity is obtained at a huge price. Over time, the soil blows away or washes onto the Great Barrier Reef and smothers it, fertility declines and problems such as salinity may arise. More generally, Australian agricultural productivity has come at the expense of driving species to extinction.

The obsession with economic growth including growth of agricultural production, increasingly threatens Australia's natural assets and the sustainability of Australia for human habitation over the generations. My experience demonstrates that almost no extra food production can be squeezed out of Northern Australia. The most fundamental problem here is

growth. We cannot grow forever in a finite world.

Our superficially rational capitalist society is based on an irrational commitment to a perpetual growth at ALL costs paradigm that is in fundamental conflict with sanity. Our society's commitment to growth is the basic threat to Australia and particularly to Northern Australia. Perpetual growth is the ideology of the cancer cell!

You can read [David's full article here](#).

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Some other items of interest

Iran says 'death to Israel'; Netanyahu offers Iranians water technology

<http://www.israelhayom.com/2018/06/11/countering-irans-death-to-israel-calls-pm-offers-iranians-water-tech/>

Crystal Waters eco village - "Australia's longest-running permaculture community"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-03/crystal-waters-eco-village-celebrates-30-years/9929342>

Ikea ditching plastic bags and more

<https://www.mnn.com/your-home/at-home/blogs/ikea-single-use-plastic-phase-out>

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Where to from here?

As mentioned in the introduction to this eNews, JECO is in desperate need of new people to work on what JECO does from now on. If you have ideas, energy and/or interest, please [email us](#) now.

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