

Beechworth Landcare

◆ THE CYPRESS EXPRESS ◆



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Dear Landcare Lovers

*When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall
And milk comes frozen home in pail;
When blood is nipped and ways be foul
Then nightly sings the staring owl...
William Shakespeare, *Love's Labour's Lost**

Hope you are enjoying the wonderful wintry weather! As you can see from our calendar of events, there are plenty of ways to stay warm this winter with Landcare!

June event! A fantastic film!

Join us on Saturday 19 June at 7pm at the Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre for a showing of the film 'Food, Inc'.

This is a free event. Coffee and cake will be served following the film.

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Upcoming events

JUNE - Free event

Movie Night: 'Food, Inc.' followed by Supper

When: Saturday 19th June 7 pm

Where: Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre

In *Food, Inc.*, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on the United States' food industry, exposing the highly mechanised underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of the government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. The US food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and the environment. There are bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but there are also new strains of *E. coli*—the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. The nation is riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults.

Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*), Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, *Food, Inc.* reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what Americans eat, how it's produced, who they have become as a nation and where they are going from here.

JULY

Workshop : Composting and Vegie Garden Bed Preparation

When: Saturday 11 July 10am-12 noon

Where: 33 Last Street, Beechworth

Come along and learn how to make:

- successful lasagna method compost
- sheet composting for new garden beds
- your own biochar fertilizer.

Morning tea provided.

JULY

2010 George Briscoe Kerferd Oration

When: Sunday 25 July 11am

Where: George Briscoe Kerferd Room, La Trobe University Beechworth Campus

Christine Nixon is the 2010 George Briscoe Kerferd Orator. Her oration is titled 'Revealing the hidden strengths and talents of community'.

The Oration is a free community event. Morning tea provided.

AUGUST

National Tree Day

When: Sunday 2 August 10am-12 noon

Where: Spring Creek (behind the swimming pool)

Come and join other volunteers and plant a tree or two.

BYO Gardening gloves and trowels if you have them.

All Welcome

Donna Page

Beechworth Landcare Project Manager

Chiltern Landcare Events

Don't miss these two great events presented by the Chiltern Landcare group. Everyone welcome.

Film night: Chiltern Landcare presents 'The Age of Stupid'

When: Saturday 26 June 7pm

Where: Star Theatre, Chiltern

Regent honeyeater walk and talk

When: Sunday 20 June 10.30am-1pm

Where: Magenta Mine, Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park

You and your family are invited to see what's being done about our region's rarest bird species.

Thank you from a Strathewen family

Last year, Beechworth Landcare sent some nestboxes to a Strathewen family after the Black Saturday fires destroyed 80% of their bush block near Mt Sugarloaf. We received this letter in May. We hope to upload the photos that accompanied the letter onto the Sustainability website.

Dear Beechworth Landcare
Thank you so much for the nesting boxes.

Our bush block was all but annihilated on Black Saturday. The land suffered an almost total loss of life. Plants, animals, birds and insects all wiped out. I have never heard a silence like the silence that was present on our block in the days and weeks that followed the fire. It is hard to describe - there was not even the sound of the wind.

Bewilderment, loneliness and grief were the overwhelming feelings when confronted by the black. The loneliness comes from the loneliness of spirit - the connection to the land and all its creatures is strong for all humans and when they are not there it is almost unbearable.

Thankfully for my family we did not lose any human lives that day and Mother Nature along with a little help from us managed to save about 20 acres of bushland. A few critters and plants species remain there and hopefully will be breeding madly to repopulate the Strathewen area. So I am renaming your nestboxes and calling them 'Love Shacks' and hope that a whole lot of loving is going to go on in them.

It is not all doom and gloom. The Black wattles are going berserk along with many other species of wattle. Many species of orchids came up after the fires in areas where the soil was cooked, so that was promising. Grass species are everywhere, *Goodenia ovata* in the gullies and many other plants and grasses - too many to name.

Unfortunately the eucalypts suffered greatly - most of the canopy is dead. But they did throw their seed and many tiny eucs are growing so we just need the rain to nurture them along.

Thanks again
Brooke, Adam, Maya and Willi.

Please note the change of dates for some of our events. We have combined some Landcare and Sustainability events.

	Beechworth Landcare and Sustainability events
June 19 7pm	<i>Movie night with Hot Chocolate and Cake</i> Saturday 19 June 7pm Beechworth N'hood Centre
JULY 11 10am-12 noon	<i>Composting and vegie garden bed preparation</i> Saturday 11 July 10am-12 noon Donna's place 33 Last St B'worth
JULY 25 11am	<i>The 2010 George Briscoe Kerferd Oration</i> Sunday 25 July 11am La Trobe University Kerferd Room Doors open at 10.15am Free event Christine Nixon: 'Revealing the hidden strengths and talents of community'
AUGUST 2 10am-12 noon	<i>National Tree Day planting at Spring Creek</i> Sunday 2 August 10am -12noon Meet at the swimming pool carpark. BYO Gloves.
AUGUST 15 10am-12 noon	<i>Back to Jacks Creek - Winter Soup Day</i> Sunday 15 August 10am -12noon A visit to see the progress of a very successful biodiversity project and an opportunity to catch up over a bowl of hearty homemade soup. 32 Jack's Creek Road

A Climate Change Optimist

Phil Horner, Secretary of Ovens Landcare Network alerted us to an optimistic view on climate change, which he heard on the ABC's PM program on Thursday 27 May. It was a 6 minute clip from a 25 minute interview with Matt Ridley. Both are available at <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s2911311.htm>
Matt Ridley's site: <http://www.rationaloptimist.com/>