

# **AN EVENING OF PRESENTATIONS NATIVE FORESTS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND DEEP ECOLOGY**

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**Larry Walsh** is a Aboriginal Elder living in Broadford/Taungerong Country, just north of Melbourne. Larry is a well known Aboriginal Storyteller with a broad knowledge of Aboriginal stories from Southern Victoria. These stories give the listener a deeper insight into the unique attributes of this part of the universe.

## **John Seed: Deep Ecology and the Conservation of Nature.**

Deep Ecology is a philosophy of nature which sees that underlying the environmental crisis there is a psychological or spiritual disease stemming from the illusion of separation between humans and the rest of the natural world. Our ecological *ideas* are not enough to protect the Earth, we need ecological identity, ecological *self*. With a presentation which includes music and poetry, John Seed shows us how to nourish our ecological identity and align ourselves with Earth.

The experience of deep ecology leads to a deepening of our love for the natural world and empowerment and vision for the protection of Nature. We will see a short film and talk about a campaign which The Rainforest Information Centre launched in July to protect Niyamgiri, a sacred mountain in Orissa, India the Dongria Kondh, an indigenous tribe who worship this mountain as their god as well as the elephants, tigers and leopards who live there.

## **Charley Daniel: Saving the East Gippsland Forests**

Australia remains one of the only developed countries still logging its old growth native forests. In Victoria these logging operations are carried out by the Government owned corporation VicForests. Each year thousands of hectares of old forest are clearfelled by VicForests for low value woodchips. Last financial year VicForests incurred losses of up to \$34 million dollars to carry out these environmentally disastrous practices. YOU ARE PAYING TO HAVE YOUR PUBLIC FORESTS CLEARFELLED FOR WOODCHIPS. Veteran Forest campaigner Charley Daniel will give a first hand account of the appalling Government mismanagement of the diminishing public forests of East Gippsland and what we can do today to preserve their many values for the future.

**Anthony Amis:** Strzelecki Koala and College Creek: All koala populations in Victoria and South Australia (except those in the Strzelecki Ranges) are descendents from a handful of Strzelecki koalas taken to French Island in the 1880's. 'Inbred' French Island descendents were the translocated across Victoria and South Australia over the next 100 years, meaning that the only genetically viable population of koalas remaining in Victoria inhabit the Strzelecki Ranges. In 1998 John Hancock Insurance Company purchased the logging rights to most of the remaining Strzelecki Koala habitat, from the Victorian State Government. Since that time 7000ha of Koala habitat has been logged by the company, with College Creek, a site of national conservation significance being clearfelled now.