

Melbourne Conversations

Feeding a Growing Melbourne: Issues and Opportunities

Growth, land use competition, water costs, extreme weather, peak oil and farm viability are food security threats. Join the conversation on our food future, listen to stories on resilience, where our food comes from, health and nutrition, get some ideas on growing and buying locally and share your urban food story.

This Melbourne Conversations event is part of the [Sustainable Living Festival](#) 9 – 24 February 2013.

Date: Thursday 14 February 2013

Time: 6.00 to 7.30pm (entry from 5.30pm)

Venue: The Edge, Federation Square, Crn Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne

Free event. No bookings required.

Panellists:

Kate Auty has worked in agriculture and academia, as a solicitor in her own law firm, and as a barrister. Kate is an Adjunct Professor at the LaTrobe Institute for Social and Environmental Sustainability Centre within the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability) at La Trobe University, Chair of the National Rural Law and Justice Alliance and a board member of the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network. Kate was appointed by the Victorian Government in June 2009, for a five year term, as the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Victoria.

Miranda Sharp co-ordinates the stallholders for the community groups and the three markets, which operate on a not-for-profit basis. Needless to say, she can usually be found on a Saturday morning at a farmers' market somewhere! A retired chef and caterer, Miranda is currently a freelance writer for The Age 'Epicure' section and has cheerfully devoted 25 professional years to Melbourne's food industry. She finds it very hard to determine where work ends and life begins. Farmers' markets are the culmination of her interest in Victorian producers and the edible spoils of every season. It is her quest to provide opportunities for everyone who eats to access, enjoy and afford fresh food. And more fundamentally, to remind us all that without the farmers', the rest isn't possible.

Martin Caraher is professor of food and health policy at the Centre for Food Policy at City University. He originally trained as an environmental health officer in Dublin where he developed an interest in the public health and health promotion aspects of the work. He completed his masters and doctorate in London, he helped establish the Centre for Food Policy 15 years ago. The centre is now located at City University. He has worked on issues related to food poverty, cooking skills, local sustainable food supplies, the role of markets and co-ops in promoting health, farmers markets, food deserts & food access, retail concentration and globalisation.

David Wallace – President Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria and Keilor vegetable grower www.vgavic.org.au/
Wallace Vegetable Farms was established in 1905 with 30 acres under vegetable production at Keilor. David is a third generation of the Wallace Family growing vegetables at Keilor. In the year 2000 the decision was made to move to hydroponic growing due to restrictions in available irrigation water for production of the 30 acre farm. One acre was placed under cover and 12,000 capsicums were planted. They are now specialising in growing a range of coloured capsicums. David was elected President of VGA Vic for the term 1991-1993, the youngest grower to be elected as President since the formation of Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria (VGA Vic) in 1943. David continued to serve on the executive committee in the roles of Treasurer and Vice President. David is the current President of VGA Vic elected in 2011.

Moderator: Rob Gell is a Director of World Wind Pty Ltd and director of his own companies Breakthrough Productions Pty Ltd and Gellignite Pty Ltd. He is also a director of a new mobile media and communications company bhive Group Pty Ltd and co-founder of ICES (International College of Environmental Sustainability).

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Rob Gell is a geographer and specifically a coastal geomorphologist, specialising in the environmental processes that continually shape our coastlines. As such, he has an expert understanding of the Victorian coastline and its formation. Rob completed his Science Degree at Melbourne University in the early seventies. In his professional life today Rob works as an environmental and communications consultant.

Presentation Partners

Sustainable Living Festival, Federation Square and Future Leaders

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