

Sydney Food Fairness Alliance

working towards food security and sustainable food systems

Annual Report

December

2008 - 2009

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Management Committee 2009

President:	Lynne Saville
Vice-President:	Russ Grayson
Secretary:	Liz Millen
Public Officer:	Sally James
Treasurer:	Pat Rayner
Assistant treasurer:	Sophie Ford

Members of the Management Committee 2009

Jill Finnane

Jocelyn Howden

Catriona Macmillan

Charles Rue

Listserv moderators: Fiona Campbell and Pat Rayner

President's report 2009

1 SFFA background

The objectives of SFFA are to work towards food security and sustainable food systems using research, education networking and advocacy to realise these aims. The guiding principles of the SFFA are sustainability, human rights, social justice and community development.

Our members work in health, aged care, community services and welfare, local government, urban planning, agriculture and primary industries, community gardens, organic food industries, food and hospitality industries, media, education, ethics, religious organisations and interested individuals.

The SFFA encourages government, communities and businesses to work together to deliver programs that will:

- ensure access to affordable healthy food by everyone
- increase public knowledge of the importance of a healthy and productive agriculture in the Sydney Basin and its contributions to our quality of life
- educate people about the importance of a wide range of foods, in particular fruits and vegetables, to good health
- allow people to enjoy seasonal quality food from the region.

Members meet regularly to consider a range of food security and food system issues and plan corresponding activities consistent with the SFFA Business Plan.

The SFFA website and listserv facilitate information share between members.

SFFA has grown extraordinarily since it formed in 2005. It has developed into a credible organisation with a membership of 200 individuals and organisations.

The *SFFA Strategic Plan 2008-2010* was developed to build on our achievements and focus on actions to promote real food security and sustainable food systems across the Sydney Basin.

The Strategic Plan identified key directions as:

- identifying opportunities to influence current food-related issues
- developing a longer-term strategic approach to food production and access in Sydney
- using the SFFA strengths as an alliance to maximum effect.

2 Report on activities in 2009

In order to consolidate our efforts it was resolved that the Sydney Food Summit should be prioritised as the main focus of activity for the management committee from mid 2008 to October 2009. However, during the year the SFFA has also been actively involved in advocacy, produced several new publications, and redesigned and updated the website.

2.1 *Hungry for Change: Food Summit 2009*

The SFFA Food Summit Planning committee met fortnightly during 2008-2009, to plan the various events that comprised the Summit. After rigorous debate and careful consideration of target audience, networks, marketing and communication issues, it was decided to start with a launch in State Parliament in May. This was followed by a series of regional events which would lead up to the Summit in October 2008, at which a Declaration would be formulated for presentation to NSW Parliament.

2.1.1 Food Summit launch - 5 May 2009

The launch at NSW State Parliament House was hosted by MLC Ian Cohen and City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and was attended by over 150 people from a diverse range of organisations. The MC was Joanna Savill, Director of the Sydney International Food Festival. Keynote speakers included:

- Bob Fagan from Macquarie University, talking about local, national and international food policy
- Frances Parker from University of Western Sydney, talking on peri-urban agriculture, and the encroachment on agricultural land by urban development
- Local growers Joe El Boustani and John Maguire, covering the need to support farmers and new farming enterprises
- Jane Dixon from Australian National University on health impacts of access to food
- Susan Thompson, a planning academic from The University of NSW on practical local food strategies, and the potential to use and affect bylaws and planning instruments
- Shaun Hazeldine from Australian Red Cross, on the role of NGOs in taking a strategic approach to food security.

2.1.2 Regional lead-up events: July - September 2009

The purpose of the regional events was to maximise participation in discussing the issues related to the Food Summit, to enable consideration of issues pertinent to the different local communities, and to take information and ideas from this comprehensive community consultation to strengthen the outcomes of the Summit.

The original plan was to hold two events in Central Sydney, one in Western Sydney, and one in the Illawarra. However the SFFA was later approached by groups from the Central Coast, Blue Mountains and Macarthur areas, which were keen to organise their own local events. This is evidence of growing interest in debating and publicising the issues. A total of six events were held (central Sydney had day time and evening sessions, western Sydney was not held).

2.1.3 Preparation for the Summit and declaration

- Four key areas were identified for the Summit and lead-up events: Planning, Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Transport.
- It was decided that all events should showcase successful local food-related initiatives, as well as debating 'issues' and problems.
- In order to ensure that regional events would best be able to contribute to the final Declaration, guidelines were prepared for local organisers.
- A planning workshop, facilitated by Fiona Campbell and Heather Yeatman was held on 10 June to elicit and consolidate themes for the draft Food Declaration.
- Food Summit promotional materials and documents were developed and distributed among relevant organisations, networks, universities, NGOs, academics, government departments, the Local Government and Shire Association of NSW, food co-ops, student organisations, conferences and forums.
- The process of development of the Summit and lead-up events was documented by three Wollongong Masters students, who attended and collated information from each lead-up event and the Summit. Their report will be available early 2010.

Over 650 people attended the various lead-up events between May and September.



Participants at Ilawarra forum, July



'World café' discussions, Macarthur, September

2.1.4 Hungry for Change: Sydney Food Summit - 22-23 October

The Sydney Food Summit was held at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre. The date was chosen to link in with Anti- Poverty Week, International Food Day and the Sydney International Food Festival.

The Summit was attended by over 220 participants, from a very diverse range of organisations and interests, including health and environmental groups, human rights and faith-based groups, primary producers, community activists, sustainability educators, academics, planners, food writers and nutritionists to name a few.

20 subsidised places were provided for students and unemployed people.

Day 1 Keynote speakers were:

- Jeanette Longfield MBE, Sustain UK
- Ian Sinclair, Edge-land Planning
- Prof John Coveney, Flinders University

Other speakers included:

- Joanna Savill, Director, Sydney International Food Festival
- Clover Moore, MP and Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney
- Lynne Saville, President SFFA
- Bernard Carlon, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water
- Josh Wyndham-Kidd, Australian Youth Climate Coalition and Copenhagen delegate
- Ed Biel, NSW Farmers Association
- Liz Millen, Secretary SFFA

Workshops

Workshops were divided into two sessions. The first discussed issues of food security and sustainable production, and the second session showcased innovative responses, food business and industry, and local food projects.

Day 2

Participants had four choices for day 2.

Approximately 50 chose to work on the Summit Declaration.

60 registered for 3 tours to peri urban farms and/or city community gardens which showcased a diversity of food production methods and food security initiatives.

South west and north west sector tours visited CALD growers including Chinese, Cambodian, Maltese; visits to heritage farms; African market gardens; community education projects; and community garden initiatives such as organic and biodynamic food production.

The inner city tour visited a range of community gardens, food co-ops and food distribution centres.

Presentation of Declaration to NSW Parliament House

At the end of Day 2 the Sydney Food Summit Declaration was taken to Parliament House and presented to a small cross-party group of elected representatives including Ian Cohen, Paul Pearce, Sylvia Hale and Gladys Berejiklian.

Conference evaluations

Evaluations have generally been extremely positive with many suggestions for future action, and new regional alliances and networks formed.

Jeanette Longfield recommended some constructive strategies and directions post conference

Sponsorships

Generous sponsorship was received from Sydney South West Area Health Service, City of Sydney Council, NSW Refugee Health Service, Australian Health Promotion Association (NSW Branch), Australian Red Cross, University of Sydney Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Colomban Mission, University of Western Sydney Urban Research Centre, NSW Department Industry and Investment, Willoughby City Council, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Permaculture International, Tradewinds, Sanitarium. Financial assistance with lead-up events was provided by Blue Mountains City Council and Wyong Council.



2.2 Advocacy

SFFA has been actively advocating during 2009, with a number of submissions to public enquiries and in response to public documents, including:

March	Invited to present to Senate Enquiry into Food Security following our written submission in 2008
March	Comments on Brisbane City Plan
April	Letter to Premier re Hurlstone Agricultural High School
June	Submission to Human Rights Commission Enquiry re a Bill of Rights for Australia (advocating for inclusion of adequate nutrition as a basic human right)
June	Invited to present to Victorian Parliamentary Committee Enquiry into Sustainable Development of Agribusiness in Outer Suburban Melbourne
July	Submission to Enquiry re future of Hurlstone Agricultural High School
August	Participation in Hurlstone Agricultural High School forum held at NSW Parliament House
September	Letter of support re: UN meeting re: GMOs

2.3 Networks, representation and liaison

- Meeting held with Hawkesbury Foundation representatives to discuss conference promotions
- Meeting with NSW Department of Industry and Innovation regarding the Food Summit
- Meeting with NSW Farmers Association with representatives from UWS Hawkesbury Foundation, Urban Research Centre, SFFA, planners and NSW Farmers Association
- Meeting with Carlo Petrini, Slow Food Movement
- Meeting with Wenche Barthe Eide, food rights advocate from Norway

2.4 Strategic alliances

Strategic alliances have been initiated and/or maintained in 2009 including:

- NSW Red Cross which generously hosts SFFA meetings
- SFFA Food Summit was included on the official program of the Sydney International Food Festival
- The SFFA liaises with the Illawarra Food Fairness Alliance
- The Rural Women's Network
- City of Sydney Council
- Transition Towns

2.5 Funding, grants and support applications

Letters and submissions were made to numerous organisations for funding and support for the lead up events to, and for the Food Summit. Many organisations endorsed and/or sponsored the SFFA to plan and organise the Sydney Food Summit.

SFFA applied successfully for a Federal Government grant for volunteer organisations, to fund the purchase of a laptop, and funds to reimburse volunteer travel expenses.

2.6 Publications

Discussion sheets prepared by the SFFA have been widely distributed and reprinted. This year four new sheets have been developed on the following topics:

- *Where has all our food gone*: influences on global food supply
- *Food and climate change*
- *Overweight and obesity*: the hidden role of food security
- *Why do we need a food policy?*

2.7 Conferences, forums and presentations

- Poster presentation accepted for the 'Feeding Sydney' UWS Conference in September 2009.
- Members attended Department of Primary Industry Sydney's Agriculture: 'Planning for the Future' on 17 December 2009.
- Members have made numerous presentations to a range of organisations including Rotary.

2.8 Website and e-communications

This year the website has been relocated and redesigned. It is now housed on Wordpress, which enables all members of the communications team to access and update information. Wordpress also has a 'blogging' format which allows visitors to post comments, suggestions and queries, making this a more interactive and dynamic website.

This year SFFA has also started Facebook and Twitter pages, with the intention of reaching audiences we may not yet be accessing. These will be further developed next year.

2.9 Ongoing SFFA activities

- Showcasing local and regional action to promote food security and sustainable food systems
- Initiating and sustaining conversations about the development of a food policy for Sydney e.g. with City of Sydney Council
- Distribution of SFFA resources at community events and conferences e.g.:
 - World Environment Day
 - Willoughby Spring Festival
 - Healthy Cities Conference
 - Chippendale Food Fair
 - Permaculture North
 - Manly Fair
 - Randwick Eco Living Fair.

Thanks

I would like to thank the members of the Sydney Food Fairness Alliance (SFFA) Management Committee, and commend their extraordinary dedication, wisdom, creativity and commitment to progress the aims of our organisation. Many SFFA members, including those on committees, have contributed extra hours to the organisation, while others have generously volunteered their time, during an extremely busy and productive year for the Alliance.

Thanks are due to Liz who drove the Summit with efficient coordination and administration; Catriona for professional organisation of the Summit; to Jill, Sally, Jocelyn, Heather, Charles for their numerous roles; to Fiona and Russ for the website, publicity and networking; to Pat for managing the finances; to the Red Cross for generously providing a place to meet; to all the members of the committees, and indeed everyone who has contributed to the SFFA thus far.

We look forward to working together collaboratively next year.

Lynne Saville
President SFFA
December 2009

Treasurer's report

SFFA income and expenditure statement 2008-09

Income	\$
Opening balance	536.00
Sponsorship Sydney South West Area Health Service - sponsor	2,500.00
Wyong Council -sponsor Central Coast event	1,695.00
City of Sydney - sponsor Sydney event	5,000.00
Blue Mountains City Council - sponsor BM event	500.00
City of Sydney - Food Summit sponsor	5,000.00
Sydney South West Area Health - Food Summit sponsor	4,500.00
Australian Red Cross - Food Summit sponsor	2,700.00
UWS Urban Research Centre - Food Summit sponsor	2,000.00
Refugee Health Service - Food Summit sponsor	2,500.00
AHPA - Food Summit sponsor	2,000.00
Sanitarium - Food Summit sponsor	1,000.00
Permaculture International - Food Summit sponsor	1,000.00
Leichhardt Council - Food Summit sponsor	1,000.00
Columban Mission - Food Summit sponsor	500.00
Willoughby City Council - Food Summit sponsor	500.00
Lower North Shore Greens - Food Summit sponsor	200.00
Food Summit - registrations	28,558.70
Victorian Local Governance Association	250.00
Donation Farm Tour	200.00
Membership	720.00
Donation S Thompson	100.00
Total income	\$ 62,959.70

Expenditure	
Payment to NSW Office of Fair Trading	66.00
Repayment loan in 2008 to Liz Millen re Summit preparations	1,500.00
Post office box	248.75
Launch	1,325.70
Deft payment Systems Auscover Pub. Liability Insurance	350.00
Phone charges	185.00
Petty cash	60.00
Bank fees	9.00
NSW Teacher's Centre - Venue	5,060.00
Acuvent - E Registrations	3,162.00
Contract work - C Macmillian, T Xu	5,640.68
Printing	2,551.65
Tours	1,734.14
Facilitator Day 2	1,000.00
Video Hire	550.00
Catering	7,274.00
Media release	706.44
Dinner for speakers	150.00
Welcome to Country	242.00
Speakers - J Longfield & J Coveney	6,040.50
Reimburse - expenses	600.65
Regional event - Central Coast	1,643.92
Regional event - Blue Mountains	667.50
Regional event - Sydney	4,996.81
Total expenditure	<u>\$45,764.74</u>

Final balance	<u>\$17,194.96</u>
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SFFA contact details

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