



Permaculture/Transition Blue Mountains meeting

6.30pm – 21 May 2014
Lawson Community Centre

TOPIC: The Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance and its work

PURPOSE

To familiarise participants with the motivation, background and work of the advocacy and educational organisation, the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance.

STRUCTURE

1. Familiarisation and readiness questions

Questions to group:

- What is your interest in food?
- What do you understand by the term 'food sovereignty'?

Ask about then explain the difference between food security and food sovereignty.

2. Background

Tell story of how Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance came into being.

3. Describe Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance's activities and program

- letter to agriculture minister about inclusions in proposed (now discontinued) National Food Plan – November 2010
- development of Peoples' Food Plan, Australia's first crowdsourced policy directions document
- Fair Food Week – now a national, annual event self-organised by participants
- responses to government white papers, enquiries etc
- formation of farmers's organisation – Fair Food Farmers United
- proposed Local Food Act – state-based Acts of parliament to support and create opportunity for farmers producing for the domestic market, Australian food processors, small to medium food business, community food systems; current focus.

4. Participatory information harvesting

The intention was to produce a situational description around fair food in the Blue Mountains and to produce ideas on what participants could do were they to decide to create an event for Fair Food Week 2014.

The information would be a type of fair food mapping exercise to provide Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance with an idea of the situation in the Blue Mountains and to produce ideas for participating organisations should they choose to take action, other than what they are already doing, on fair food locally.

Three small group tables with participants rotation through each table addressing three questions:

- What are some of the issues around fair food in the Blue Mountains?
- Which organisations are contributing to food sovereignty in the Blue Mountains?
- Fair Food Week – what we could do.

1. What are some of the issues around fair food in the Blue Mountains?

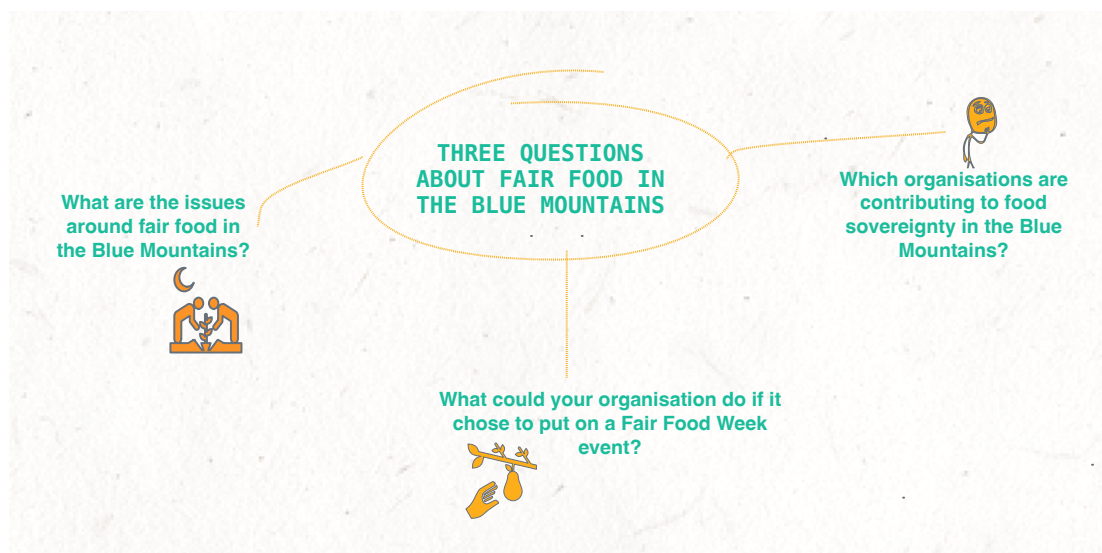
- Cost
- Distribution
- Waste
- Fair payment to overseas producers
- Blue Mountains weather/environment: soil fertility, bushfires
- Growing the network of local producers/distributors to increase choice
- Education: how to do it and organic it
- Availability of organic food
- Number of outlets to sell food from local producers
- Limited number of people-resources
- You have personal control over your own garden; having the ability to do this
- Blue Mountains is overshadowed by Sydney's size and networks
- Bushfire: concerns, fears
- Weather: solutions include glasshouses, hugelkulture
- Climate change
- Soil fertility: improving through education in composting etc
- Energy descent: peak oil; supply; community plan; transition plan
- Food mapping
- Low socio-economic areas in Blue Mountains
- Geography: distance.

2. Which organisations are contributing to food sovereignty in the Blue Mountains?

- Blue Mountains Food Co-op
- Crop & Swap
- Permaculture Blue Mountains
- Nourishing Mountains Co-op (website, Facebook)
- Blue Mountains Organic Biodynamic Meat Buying Group (Facebook)
- Community gardens: Katoomba, Mid-mountains, Springwood, Winmalee
- Slow Food Blue Mountains
- Fruit and Nut Tree Network
- Foragers Network
- Blue Mountains Food services
- Soul Food Kitchen
- Local growers' market
- Blue Mountains Community Markets
- Local permaculture courses
- Healthy Harvest
- Nurseries
- Aussie Farmers Direct
- Some independent supermarkets – eg. IGA.

3. Fair Food Week – what we could do

- Buy local campaign
- Chook beauty contest
- Jam, chutney, preserves making competition
- Map what people grow in their gardens
- Create recipes for food that is grown locally
- Make a pop-up permaculture garden
- Fair food trail
- Poster of where food is produced – industrialisation of food
- Fair food calendar with recipes
- Cooking competition
- Open gardens with local, seasonal; ingredients and recipes
- Gardens in a box
- Events on different days and different times to allow participation
- Local diet challenge
- Fair food challenge
- Events similar to Leura Harvest Festival
- Workshops & businesses

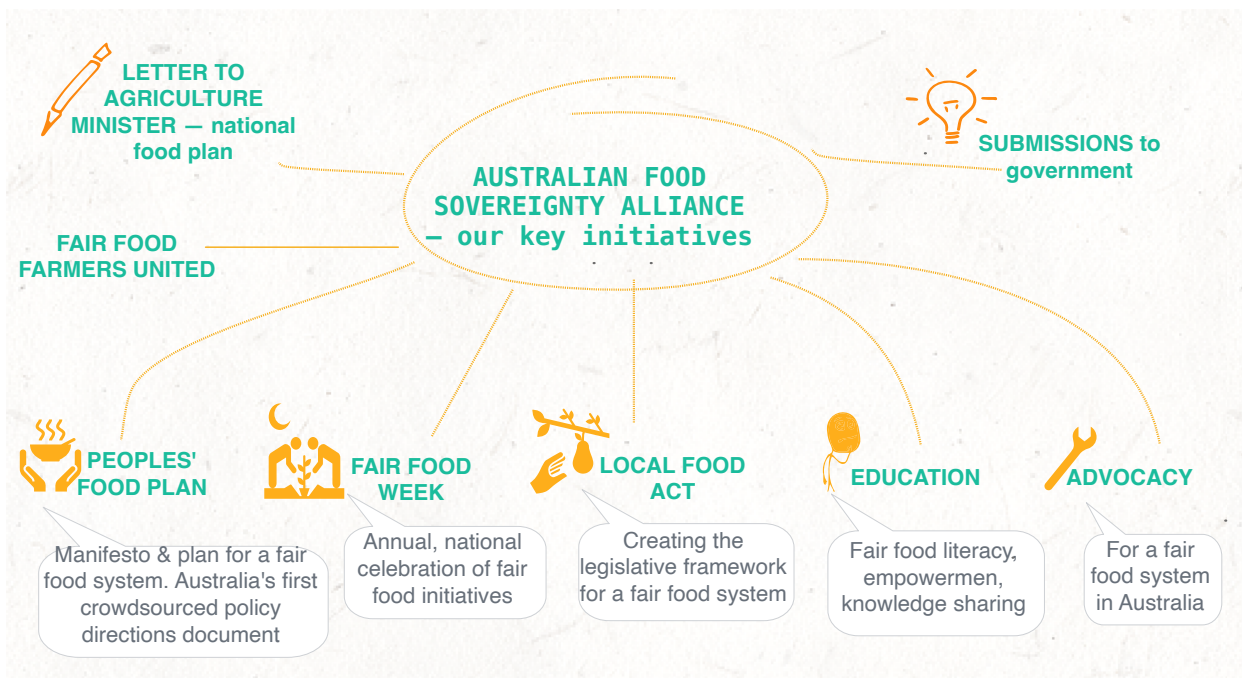


- Backyard produce show and tell
- Demonstration of how to grow food sustainably in a backyard or community garden
- Shops cook and sell on street
- Community workshops on health and nutrition
- School garden events
- Local farm visits, talks, workshops
- Plant sales

- Gardening classes
- Council support local produce
- New community gardens
- Landshare movement.

5. Outro

Leave participants with question of what would be a longer term project they could engage with other local groups on in the region.



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