



18th Symposium of Australian Gastronomy The Federation of Taste

Friday 13 May - Monday 16 May 2011

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CALL FOR PAPERS

18th Symposium of Australian Gastronomy

**Old Parliament House Canberra
Friday 13 to Monday 16 May 2011**

The Symposium will open with a reception in King's Hall and conclude with a breakfast in the former parliamentary kitchens. A highlight will be the Saturday evening banquet in the Members' Dining Rooms.

Papers are sought on the theme of the 2011 Symposium: *The Federation of Taste*.

A fundamental role of government is to ensure that life is sustained – that the people are well fed. Wars are waged to expand or defend control of food supplies and an undernourished populace becomes rebellious or ungovernable.

While as simplistic as it is gastrocentric, applying this view of the role of government to the history of Australia draws attention to what many historians have tended to overlook: the key role of food in the law of the land both before and after 1788. Australia's subsequent progress, from six colonies to a multicultural federation, is intimately linked with the production and supply of food supply and its food culture.

The broad theme of the symposium is to explore the implications of governance past and present for gastronomy in Australia. Sample subject areas include:

- *A Good Constitution*. The Constitution shows how Australians have resolved to govern themselves and the kind of nation they want to build. There is no direct mention of food, yet governments wield considerable power over what we eat and what we pay for it. Could the Constitution provide for the good constitutions of citizens and make good health a national goal? Does government have a responsibility to ensure all Australians have real choices amidst the mediocrity of fast food, cheap eats, supermarket fare and profit-driven food farming? Can government in effect legislate for good taste?
- *Is our future royalist or republican?* Australians took fright at the idea of being called a 'banana republic' and could not be persuaded to become a constitutional republic, but the republican ideal has not gone away. Should Australians aspire to feast like royalty, or dine reasonably like republicans? Is there still a place for 'the roast beef of old England' on a multicultural menu? What does it take to make a democratic dinner?

- *The Heritage of Absence*. European settlement mostly displaced Indigenous foodways, but can there ever be an 'Australian cuisine' which excludes indigenous food? What can be done to reconnect Australia's cuisine with its heritage?

Abstracts of no more than 500 words, together with a 100-word biography of the presenter(s) and audiovisual equipment needed, should be submitted to papers@gastronomers.org by **1 February 2011**.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the presentations panel for merit and relevance. Successful authors will submit their papers in electronic form including slideshows by **13 April 2011**.

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