



Talking Dinners 2015

Clean Soil Talking dinner 7 (24 Mar 2015)

Declared by the UN as the "International Year of Soils", it is timely that our first talking dinner of 2015 featured guest speaker Patrice Newell who shared her knowledge of the importance of clean soils and the impact this has on us all.



Patrice Newell has been a journalist, broadcaster, newsreader and former co-anchor of the Today Show. That was before she moved to a farm of over 10,000 acres at Gundy near Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley. Her farm is now certified biodynamic. Patrice produces beef, garlic, olives and honey, and has also written a number of best selling books - *The Olive Grove*, *The River*, *Ten Thousand Acres: A Love Story*, and *Tree to Table: Cooking with Olive Oil*.

Our thanks to Momo Whole Food Cafe of East Maitland for the venue.

Fair Food - farm tour, dinner and film night Talking dinner 8 (31 May 2015)

As Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) producers, Kate and Mark Brown understand the importance of the mantra "fair food". They live it on a daily basis. Their farm, Purple Pear Farm, hosted a dinner and film night that focussed on just that - fair food. The evening started with a tour of Kate and Mark's farm, which is run using permaculture and biodynamic practises. Kate and Mark then served delicious vegetarian soups with Purple Pear sourdough bread.



Guests were then treated to a provocative and inspirational documentary film *Fair Food*, by the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance and a discussion afterwards.

Our thanks to Purple Pear Farm of Anambah for the venue.

TALKING DINNERS 2015

ONCE AGAIN WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK DONE BY OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO DEDICATED SO MUCH TIME TO MAKE OUR TALKING DINNERS POSSIBLE.

A SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO OUR GUEST SPEAKERS WHO PROVIDE SUCH INSIGHT INTO A RANGE OF TOPICS THAT AFFECT THE FOOD SYSTEM BRING SO MUCH LIFE TO THESE EVENTS.

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR GUESTS WHO MAKE THESE EVENTS SUCH A SUCCESS.



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Spice up Your Leftovers
Talking dinner 9 (12 Jul 2015)

We said this talking dinner is bound to impress and we did not disappoint. Ian Hemphill (Herbies Spices) discussed food waste and ways of reducing it. The evening was rounded off with a QandA-style panel where guests were invited to ask questions.

Our thanks to Awaba House, Booragul (Lake Macquarie) for the venue.



Terra Madre Celebration
Talking dinner 11 (10 Dec 2015)

Slow Food Hunter Valley celebrated the great food and cultural diversity of our region in a true Christmas finale to our Talking Dinners.

Amorelle Dempster shared her stories of her recent adventures to Shillong, in North East India. As the Leader of Slow Food Hunter Valley and Australian Councillor, Slow Food International, Amorelle attended a meeting of indigenous communities from around the world at Indigenous Terra Madre. Our Slow Food Network delegate, Corey Grech, recently attended Terra Madre Youth in Milan, and shared his experiences with us. All this, coupled with a delightful Sri Lankan and Indian meal that awakened the palet and the sense, made for a wonderful evening. The food included plenty of vegetarian options, scrumptious seasonal dessert, and jugs of spiced tea - all prepared by Amorelle and her wonderful team from Readers Café & Larder.

Slow Wine
Talking dinner 10 (7 Oct 2015)

Our speakers, Dr Julie McIntyre (Historian Researcher, Academic and Author), Daniel Honan (The Wine Idealist - Sustainable Wine Journalist) and Ross McDonald (Organic/Biodynamic Wine Producer), are at the heart of our wine industry.

During this informative evening, our guest speakers took us on a journey through the wine industry in its entirety, from the consideration of wine quality, grape varieties, and value for money through to the adherence to terroir, environmental sensitivity, and ecologically sustainable viticulture practices.

Our thanks to Moor, Newcastle East for the venue.

