



2nd International Food and Thought MELA

**Food, Community and the Future
20th and 21st June
Hamilton, Victoria**

YOUTH FOOD AND THOUGHT MELA

**Friday June 20th June 2008
10.00am -2.00pm
RMIT University, Hamilton**

Students from eight secondary schools in the Hamilton region have been invited to attend a range of talks and workshops dealing with local-global issues and creative responses, concepts of globalization and case studies of community-based action. They will also discuss possibilities of building intercultural exchanges with other places in the world.

TIME	PRESENTATION	MODE
10.00am	Schools ARRIVE WELCOME	
10.15am- 10.45am	Carlos Zorilla: What a Community can do to protect their ecology – a story from Ecuador, South America	Whole group
10.45am- 11.30am	<u>Workshops: students to choose one</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are human rights and why does it matter? – Glen Kuecker 2. How Large is Your Ecological Footprint? otherWISE - Fiona Upstill 3. Using media to create stories and profiles -Robin Nicholas 4. A story from an Indian farming community – Thangavelu Kumaran 5. A story from an Indian tribal hill community – Kaviarasan 	Small groups
11.30am-12.00	Mt Alexander Sustainability Group	Whole group
12.00-12.30pm	LUNCH (byo) DVD presentation TBC	Whole group
12.30pm- 1.15pm	<u>Workshops : students to choose one</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are human rights and why does it matter? – Glen Kuecker 2. How Large is Your Ecological Footprint? otherWISE - Fiona Upstill 3. Using media to create stories and profiles -Robin Nicholas 4. A story from an Indian farming community – Thangavelu Kumaran 5. A story from an Indian tribal hill community – Kaviarasan 	Small groups
1.15pm-1.45pm	Manfred Steger: Globalisation- what does this mean?	Whole group
2.00pm	Schools DEPART	

Workshop Descriptions

2. What sort of an impact are you having on our earth's resources?

Come along and learn about sustainable living and actions that young people (our future world leaders) can take to lessen your impact on our planet.

3. Robin Nicholas' workshop will give students ideas on how they can develop stories of their town or farm and of themselves. Students can brainstorm ideas with him and also think about different ways to pull together a story and/or profile of themselves.

YOUTH FOOD AND THOUGHT MELA

Biographies of Presenters

Venkatesan Kaviyarasan

Kavi is a mushroom expert, a professor of mycology from Madras University, Chennai, South India. Kavi spends much of his life, when he is not teaching, identifying and protecting fungi species for biodiversity and sustainability of fragile environments. He works with local communities in the Tamil Nadu area, and particularly with a tribal community whose livelihood has been impacted by large-scale resource extractions.

Glen Kuecker

Glen Kuecker is an associate professor of Latin American history at DePauw University. Professor Kuecker is co-founder of the Intag Solidarity Network, which runs a human rights program in Ecuador, and co-founder of the Canary Institute, which undertakes grassroots research about catastrophic collapse. Glen also collaborates with the Globalism Institute, RMIT University, on sustainable community research.

Thangavelu Vasantha Kumaran

Thangavelu (TV) is a Professor of geography and head of the Geography Department at Madras University, Chennai, South India. TV has done substantial research and community work, particularly in areas of traditional ecological knowledge systems, sustainable development and community development planning in South India. He has also conducted several workshops and training programs on issues relating to the fields of medical geography, natural resource management, geographical information systems and their applications in water resource analysis and management; particularly irrigation and irrigation management, and community development planning.

Mt Alexander Sustainability Group

The Sustainability Group has over 500 members - strong and growing, taking action to combat climate change. We employ six staff and many volunteers at the MASG office in Castlemaine, central Victoria. Our members are householders and local schools, businesses, and community organisations. A charity and non-government organisation, MASG staff and dozens of volunteers are working on positive responses to climate change and peak oil; and are seeking ways to get renewable energy systems in place in this region. Castlemaine is close to the centre of Mount Alexander Shire, home to around 18,000 people and 120km north west of Melbourne. Our initial focus is on reducing our carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy.

Robin Nicholas

Robin Nicholas works to create safety communication that celebrates workers by honoring their values and culture. As Health and Safety Communications Project Leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory, he develops comprehensive communication projects of video, animation, and print to serve workers with wide-ranging occupations, ages, cultures, and learning styles. He also participates as a member of the International Congress of Occupational Health (ICOH), and the International Social Security Association (ISSA) – Section on Education and Training for Prevention. Mr. Nicholas will be speaking at the upcoming World Congress of Safety and Health in Seoul, Korea.

otherWISE - Youth Leadership for Sustainable Communities

A local Project that will connect young people of the region to an Australian movement. The aim of the project is to inform, inspire and equip young Australians to take action and demonstrate leadership towards more sustainable communities with the support of their community. This includes personal actions (lifestyle changes), and individual and community projects.

Manfred Steger

Manfred B. Steger is Director of the Globalism Institute and Professor of Global Studies at RMIT University. In addition, he is Senior Research Fellow at the Globalization Research Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and an affiliated faculty member with the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa. His study *Globalism: The New Market Ideology* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002) won the 2003 Michael Harrington Award of the New Political Science Section of the American Political Science Association.

Carlos Zorrilla

Carlos Zorrilla is the founder and executive director of DECOIN - a grassroots NGO dedicated to the conservation of the cloud forests of the Intag region of northern Ecuador. Carlos is a 30 year resident of the region, and has dedicated his life to the pursuit of ecologically sustainable human inhabitation of one of planet earth's most important biological niches. He is an active promoter of critical water-shed projects, organic crops, a shade-grown coffee cooperative, eco-tourism, and economies built around local production and consumption. Carlos has lectured at universities in Japan, Canada and the United States. He has presented before the OECD in Paris on corporate ethics, and is recognized as one of the world's leading ecologists.