

The New Institute

Stefano Manfredi

Food, Wine, and Australian Society

Tuesday 14th September 2010, 7 p.m.

Fettuccine, Chorizo, Cappuccino, Sushi, Cabernet Sauvignon. These words are common place and are understood and appreciated by most Australians today. But only 50 years ago we were more familiar with devon, mint sauce, vegemite and porphyry pearl, while cheese came from a blue packet wrapped in alfoil.

The post-war migration era has seen Australia's emergence as one of the most cosmopolitan and dynamic societies in the world. It has also resulted in the growth of businesses and cultural activities, and variety in foods, wine, restaurants, fashion, art and architecture. Choosing a restaurant to eat today is not a simple decision. Choices include restaurant or cafe; inside or out; a myriad of ethnicities; types of eating – a la carte, degustation, tapas, small bites; BYO or licensed.

The contribution of food and wine to Australian society is beyond the immediate pleasures of consumption and experience. It has supported our understanding of other cultures, nations and religions, while fine food and wine are also significant contributors to the Australian economy.

At the next public forum of the New Institute, ***Stefano Manfredi*** a leading providore and exponent of modern Italian cuisine in Australia, will review this profound transformation of Australia when he presents '***The Contribution of Food and Wine to Australian Society***'.

Born in the Lombardy region of northern Italy, Stefano and his family settled in Australia in 1961. His first restaurant opened in 1983, transforming the way the cuisine of Italy was perceived in Australia. His restaurant is the only Italian restaurant to have attained the coveted 3-hat rating from the SMH Good Food Guide. More recently, he has branched out into broader hospitality with fine boutique accommodation at Killcare and Pretty Beach. He is also a nationally influential food writer, with a weekly column in the Sydney Morning Herald.

MEETING OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

VENUE: South Leagues Club, Llewellyn St. Merewether.

DATE: Tuesday 14th September 2010

TIME: 7.00 till 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$5

FURTHER INFORMATION: Kryisia Walker 0428 601692

About the New Institute....

The New Institute was established in Newcastle in early 2004 as a public policy forum/discussion group loosely modelled on other public policy groups such as the Sydney, Brisbane or Australia Institutes. The Institute is a forum for new ideas, and a venue to encourage people to engage and participate in discussion of public interest issues, and the development of public policy. It is an independent, non-party-political, not-for-profit, incorporated association, open to the general public.

Within these principles, the New Institute will not take a position on any issue, but will value diversity of ideas and broad engagement in debate. Members of the Institute's Organising Committee have a wide variety of personal opinions and allegiances across the political "spectrum", but are all committed to the above principles and vision for the Institute.

Meetings in 2010

The year's meetings have included a wide range of topics. "The first year of the Obama Presidency"; "How do we develop a stronger voice for the Hunter"; 'The challenges of Volunteering and Community Organisations'; 'Twitter and the new social media – What is it good for?'; 'Whatever happened to the Australian republic?' and most recently, we welcomed Dr Peter Saul to discuss 'Dying in the 21st Century'.

Program for later 2010 and 2011

In October, nationally prominent economist **Ross Gittins** will return to the New Institute to discuss '**The Happy Economist**'. The final meeting in November will be ANU political scientist **Norman Abjorensen** discussing **Whistleblowers and the state of democracy in Australia;**

In early 2011 the Institute is seeking out '**New Thinkers**'. Many Australians are concerned that we are no longer generating new ideas or asking the important questions. Using a format based on the ABC Television show 'The New Inventors', we are offering the chance to submit your 'new idea' for changing something - big or small - in the world. Four big ideas, and some short 'small ideas', will be selected to be put to an expert panel for discussion both serious and entertaining. Start thinking now!!

Interested?

The Institute welcomes support, suggestions or contributions that fit within the framework and principles described above. If you would like to know more, visit the website at www.newinstitute.org.au or phone Krysia Walker on 0428 601692.

Interim Management Committee

Martin Babakhan; Felicity Biggins; Robyn Considine; Bernie Curran; Angie Dilorenzo; Ross Kerridge; Peter McNair; John Miner; Roger Pryor; Amanda Shirley (McLean's Bookshop), Krysia Walker