

Australian Capital Region Food Hub Information Session

The following information is a summary of feedback obtained at the end of the Food Hub event held on 11 June 2014. This information represents the ideas of attendees and will be used to facilitate discussion about progress of the Food Hub.

Where are the gaps?

- Mentoring programs
- Distribution website for all producers to link to and sell their produce. It could be set up to be seasonal / regional / fresh food categories. Maybe similar to a co-op.
- Label identifying food from this region
- Gathering local expertise and sharing experiences
- Grow at home – many people are not aware of how easy some vegies are to grow (eg. Cos lettuce, tomatoes) – widespread education
- Yard waste / compost swap / wanted ad system for cuttings and seeds
- Community gardens (group producers)
- No local abattoir – economy, animal health, lack of volume
- Other possibilities for tables/maps - Grain products, winemakers, breweries, cider making, coffee roasters, cheese makers, ice cream, olive groves, truffle farms, other value adding industries
- Red Fin farming and carp farming for fertiliser – job producing
- Tap into overseas market when international flights start
- Work for the dole and prison systems could be tapped into for labour
- Business Support Programs that work with small/micro/start up companies
- Start up capital (friendly) – self generated from the region
- Wineries – spin-offs from such producers

Where to from here?

- Mentoring programs / further discussion and education / focus groups / strong networks
- Productive urban landscapes and places
- Consumer education – freezer?
- Engage politicians
- Design and build permaculture systems, including food forests, right here in the Capital
- Small volume produce outlet for serious home gardeners (mainly seasonal)
- Continue what is already in train
- Develop networks, make the “whole” as flat as possible hierarchically ie. Minimise “depth/elite”
- Provide information/resources/administrative and training resources
- Promote communication between groups of interested people
- Engage kids / young people more
- Encourage production of an online information booklet of producers/suppliers/distributors – update monthly
- Encourage diversity
- Organic franchises / collective / co-op – must not make the mistake of putting profits first