



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon David Borger MP

Minister for Housing
Minister for Western Sydney

Western Sydney ignites with gastronomical delights

13 October 2009

Minister for Western Sydney David Borger today applauded those growers, chefs and restaurateurs who are participating in the Western Sydney component to the inaugural Sydney International Food Festival.

Mr Borger said the region has come alive with the rest of Sydney, showcasing its food, fairs, tours and celebrations for all to experience.

“The Sydney International Food Festival is providing opportunities and insights into the region that haven’t existed before,” Mr Borger said.

“With a population of almost 1.9 million our region is Australia’s multicultural heartland with over half of the world’s nations represented.

“Western Sydney has an incredibly diverse cultural mix and now there are over a dozen events celebrating this that have brought colour and excitement to our streets and suburbs.

“Italy is coming to the west with the Council of Italian Restaurants in Australia’s (CIRA) *Cucina Italiana* cooking demonstrations that focus on simple, low-cost and authentic Italian cooking.

“Western Sydney youth will be able to take advantage of the knowledge and skills of celebrity chefs Giovanni Pilu, Alessandro Pavoni and Danny Russo at Casula High School and the TAFE NSW Western Sydney Institute Kingswood campus.”

Six Western Sydney councils are participating in this Sydney food festival, holding a total of 19 events across Western Sydney.

The public is being invited into the heart and soul of Western Sydney with *The Flavours of Auburn Long Lunch* (24 October) featuring an extraordinary 10 different cuisines and *Bankstown’s Tastes of Asia* (17 & 31 October) tour.

Bankstown City is also offering a culinary journey around the world with its five-course progressive dinner (23 October).

Not to be outdone, Cabramatta’s restaurants are presenting their signature dishes for all to try during the festival month and an opportunity to eat with Luke Nguyen as he takes the public on his intimate Cabramatta tour (25 October).

At *Parramatta’s Eats B4 Riverbeats* (31 October), Church Street will be transformed into a vibrant alfresco dining experience in prelude to the sound and lights of Riverbeats Live 09.

Olive (24 & 25 October). Home of Australia's oldest European olive tree, this two-day celebration will feature celebrity chefs, olive growers and food merchants, live music, and dance.

Mr Borger also commended the efforts of St Marys' Mamre House for hosting its Under the Stars dinner (16 October), an evening comprising of local produce grown on the property as part of its African Employment Program.

"These events are about inviting not only locals but Sydney and beyond to experience what our region has to offer," Mr Borger said.

"I urge you all to visit our great region and enjoy and next year I hope we'll see even more festivals and events across Western Sydney," Mr Borger said.

For further information on local events visit www.siff.com.au

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