



PRESS RELEASE

**The Kitchen Garden Classroom: Educating Children for a Healthy Future
Monday 13 October, 2008
Abbotsford Convent, St Helier's St, Abbotsford, Vic, 3067**

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation (SAKGF) is hosting its inaugural national conference – The Kitchen Garden Classroom: Educating Children for a Healthy Future – on Monday 13 October 2008 at the Abbotsford Convent in Melbourne.

The aim of the conference is to share the knowledge and experience we have gained over the last 7 years of delivery of the innovative primary school Kitchen Garden Program, and to explore the future directions of food education for children in Australia. Food, gardening, design and community health experts, along with staff from several of the Kitchen Garden Program schools, will provide inspiring and informative seminars for all teachers, principals, parents, educationalists, community health workers and public health researchers interested in how to deliver stimulating, enjoyable, and long-lasting food education to children.

The conference will begin with a keynote address from the founder of the Kitchen Garden Foundation and renowned food writer, Stephanie Alexander, followed by DVD messages from Alice Waters, owner of Chez Panisse & founder of the Edible Schoolyard in San Francisco, and also Jamie Oliver, celebrity chef and activist for the improvement of English school dinners.

The conference will then follow four themes, starting with The Program in Practice, moving on to Shared Learning, Program Sustainability and finally Learning for Life, with up to five workshops or presentations offered within each theme. Amongst 18 individual sessions on the conference program, participants might choose from the following:

- How to get a Kitchen Garden Program off the ground, presented by Ange Barry, Executive Officer, SAKGF
- A Make-believe Kitchen Class – how any menu can lead to endless learning and teaching opportunities – presented by Stephanie herself
- Learning Standards and the Kitchen Garden Program – integrating children's learning in the garden and kitchen into state-wide curriculum frameworks
- Kitchen Garden Design – how the Kitchen Garden Program is changing the built environment of schools – chaired by Alan Saunders, host of ABC Radio National's 'By Design' program.
- Live Kitchen & Garden Demonstration Classes with children, in which participants can observe the hands-on teaching philosophy of the Program
- The Impact of the Program. A report on the formal evaluation of the Program currently underway, presented by Dr Lisa Gibbs of The University of Melbourne

Thirty children will attend the conference. They will join other participants in the opening and closing addresses, will participate in workshops of their own, will be involved in a panel discussion and in demonstration kitchen and garden classes.

At the end of the day, it's all about great food, and the cost of registration will include a delicious shared lunch in the Convent gardens, and finale drinks accompanied by tastes prepared by the children.

The cost of registration is \$170.00 per person. For more information on the conference program and online registration please visit the Kitchen Garden Foundation website at www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au

**Media enquiries please contact Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation on
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