



Feel Good Eating This Autumn

**08.03.11**

**Autumn Scarf Monday Night Dinners – “You ought to come for dinner!”**

at Bistro Flor – 555 Nicholson St, Fitzroy North (Mondays from March 7<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>)  
and New York Tomato – 2-6 New St, Richmond (Mondays from April 11<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>)

Autumn Scarf runs each Monday night for ten weeks and provides a dining experience with a difference. For \$35, you’ll eat a two-course set menu (with choice), followed by petits fours and coffee. The dinner will be cooked and served to you by Scarf trainees who are marginalised young people being guided by hospitality professionals in a mentoring role.

Scarf is a not-for-profit social enterprise that provides relevant hands-on hospitality training and mentoring programs to marginalised youth who face barriers to obtaining fair access to training and work opportunities. Trainees for the Autumn Scarf program have been referred from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Concern Australia. Scarf mentors come from well-regarded Melbourne restaurants such as Gigibaba, Balzari, Birdman Eating, Mama Ganoush, New York Tomato and Charcoal Lane.

Founded by a group of young hospitality professionals in Melbourne, Scarf borrows other people’s restaurants on Monday nights in order to deliver its unique 10-week programs. Autumn Scarf will run from *Bistro Flor* in North Carlton for five weeks, and will move to *New York Tomato* in Richmond for the final five weeks of the program. Autumn Scarf is the first of four seasonal programs that Scarf plans to run in 2011.

“Scarf gives marginalised young people real, hands-on experience that helps them to find meaningful employment. We have secured a number of fantastic mentors who volunteer their time to support our trainees and provide connections to the hospitality industry. And importantly, we deliver a high quality dining experience to our customers,” says Scarf’s Hannah Colman.

In 2010 six young people were trainees during the Scarf hospitality training pilot program which ran in August, September and October. Five of the trainees secured employment as a result of the Scarf program. The young people who have been supported to date include refugees, asylum seekers, new migrants and Australian youth. All had a passion to work in hospitality but needed practical experience and industry connections before they were able to secure a job.

**Nyalony Gatwec** - pilot program trainee (photograph can be supplied upon request)

*Do you feel confident about going into a restaurant job and using the skills that you learned at Scarf?* "Definitely. I can just walk in and do what it takes. It might be a little different but after doing all the Scarf training you can keep up with the challenges."

**Francesca Black** - diner at Scarf’s pilot program in 2010 - “The service was very conscientious and attentive, warm and friendly. I enjoyed my meal and the evening overall. I would come back, not just to support Scarf but because I had a lovely experience.”

Scarf receives funding from the RE Ross Trust, and product sponsorship from De Bortoli Wines, Little Creatures Brewing, Natural Tucker Bakery and Di Bella Coffee Roasting Warehouse.

More information can be found at <http://www.scarfcommunity.org>

Bookings for dinners are essential – Contact Jess Moran on 0488 777 527 / [jess@scarfcommunity.org](mailto:jess@scarfcommunity.org)

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