

Food Not Bombs Sydney presents

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ZINE



Issue #2

now in colour!

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Death is coming. Eat trash. Be free.

Food Not Bombs Sydney
fnbsydney.org



Timeline of FNB Sydney pre-2020

This zine was published by the Food Not Bombs Sydney chapter that was started in 2020. A bit of digging through the internet reveals previous chapters in Sydney throughout the years. The following is a short summary of some events and changes that took place which I hope offers some inspiration for current volunteers.

NOTE: All events listed here have been gathered from online sources only. Information is still missing. If you or anyone you know has first-hand information or corrections to make, feel free to contact us on fnbsydney.org/contact with any improvements or additional information that you might have. You can also contact us to gain access to the full unedited set of notes, including citations, which was used to make this document.

Early days

13 Sep 2003 - The earliest online mention of a Food Not Bombs (FNB) around Sydney appears to be on a Sydney Reclaim The Streets (RTS) event page, where a Food Not Bombs Katoomba banner is pictured.



RECLAIM the STREETS 

SATURDAY JANUARY 29 2005

1PM Meet at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park (Site of the Newtown Festival) and then stroll (or cha cha) with the samba band to the secret festival location ;-)

Featuring: Bands, gardening, jelly wrestling, DJ's, Food not Bombs, volleyball, friends, garage sales, films, performance, poetry, skating, couches, and most importantly...YOU!



29 Jan 2005 - Food Not Bombs is mentioned on the Sydney 2005 RTS homepage.

2008 Chapter

Sourcing from their blog and forum, it appears this chapter was most active from September 2007, until November 2008, after which announcements dropped off. A couple of serves were done for events in 2009 and 2011. Forum posts appeared to remain somewhat steady until March 2009.

10 Sep 2007 - First post is made on sydfoodnotbombs.blogspot.com titled "Sydney FNB Resurfaces" with a picture of their first serve, signalling the start of a new FNB Sydney chapter while also implying there was a chapter prior to this one (perhaps the 2005 one). Hot food was served at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Victoria Park as sit-down meals. Future serves would continue to take place here, somewhat irregularly.

09 Oct 2007 - Food is served at Sydney University where a documentary is screened, concerning the Maralinga nuclear tests.

26 Oct 2007 - FNB Sydney provides food for Reclaim The Night, a women's march against violence, from Town Hall to Hyde Park.

02 Nov 2007 - FNB Sydney participates in providing food for Rising Tide during a blockade of the Port of Newcastle (the world's biggest coal port)

01 Dec 2007 - Food is shared at STUCCO, where consent workshops are held after a march protesting invasive government responses to sexual assault in Northern Territory Indigenous communities.

15 Jan 2008 - First recorded meeting by this chapter, held as a picnic at Victoria Park.

25 Jan 2008 - The sydfnb.tk forum is created in order to replace email communication.

11 Feb 2008 - Regular weekly serving of food is officially announced. Food is now to be served at Forbes Street Reserve (northern end of King St), every second Saturday starting 3pm-4pm, with takeaway options available.

25 Feb 2008 - The kitchen at Jura Books becomes the permanent kitchen space for cooking, starting at 1pm every second Saturday.

13 Apr 2008 - Tofu burgers are prepared at Jura and handed out at Marrickville Youth Week Show.

2 Jun 2008 - A call out is made requesting more volunteers.

10 - 14 Jul 2008 - FNB Sydney, FNB Newcastle, and Rising Tide team up to provide vegan food for "Climate Camp", an event involving workshops and a protest on the Newcastle coal rail line. About 300 activists attended and a FNB Sydney volunteer managed to breach the coal rail line. Police halted fresh fruit from being delivered to the action as they believed they could be used as projectiles, so "Team Salad" chopped up every piece of fresh fruit in order to get it through.

21 Jul 2008 - FNB Sydney announces it will now be serving food under the Martin Luther King mural on King St. Servings are still done on Saturdays every fortnight.

25 Jul 2008 - UNSW Food Co-Op donates a box of vegetables to FNB Sydney. This is the first online recorded instance of FNB Sydney co-operating with a registered food vendor.

27 Jul 2008 - Fundraiser event held at Jura Books in order to raise money for a van for FNB Sydney. Event was ticketed as a \$5 - \$15 donation. The event included spoken word performances, zine stalls, bands, meals, sweets, and pinata.

29 Nov 2008 - The last online record of a regular food serving done by this chapter, still at the Martin Luther King mural.

23 - 26 Jan 2009 - FNB Sydney cooks up food for some of the events at the "Decolonise Festival" which included music, film, bike mechanic workshops, and sexual health talks.

22 Sep 2009 - A forum post promoting the idea of "restarting FNB Sydney" appears and a meeting to discuss this idea is planned at Black Rose Books and was to be held on the 27th of September 2009.

28 Oct 2011 - A request to help share food at the Re-Occupy Sydney rally is made. It is unknown whether food was distributed on behalf of FNB Sydney on the day.



Picture of the first serve done by the 2008 chapter, held at Victoria Park on the 10th of September, 2007.

2014 Chapter

Information on this chapter was gathered from the current 2020 FNB Sydney Facebook page (foodnotbombzsydney). Due to the lack of information in the facebook posts of the 2014 chapter, it's unclear what exact day this chapter first began serving food and when they stopped.

26 Jun 2014 - Announcement that cook is happening at 5pm at Join-The-Dots (an artist-run art space in Marrickville), every Sunday. Food is served out at Enmore Park at 6pm, which is a 1min walk away from the kitchen space. This kitchen space lacks an oven and much cookware.

29 Jun 2014 - A bakery in Newtown donates pastries.

06 Jul 2014 - Food is served at The Block in Redfern as part of a protest against redevelopment of The Block.

20 Jul 2014 - Food was to be served at The Block again but protesters had already been fed so FNB Sydney decided to serve at Newtown station. A salad was prepared for this serve using food from the Addison Road community garden. This marks the first online evidence of Food Not Bombs Sydney collaborating with Addison Road Community Organisation. Vegan Teahouse also donated banana bread for this serve.

27 Jul 2014 - A fundraiser to help buy spices and cookware is held in conjunction with the NSW co-ops conference at UTS, where FNB Sydney served meals using food provided by the Alfalfa House food co-op.

10 Aug 2014 - Cook location is changed to Monster Mouse in Marrickville.

17 Aug 2014 - Meals are now served at Newtown Station. Food is gathered from Alfalfa House and from volunteering at Addison Road Community Garden.

14 Sep 2014 - Serve is cancelled because the usual driver and food collector for FNB Sydney is on holidays.

21 Sep 2014 - Meals are now served at the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy at 7pm.

29 Nov - 27 Dec - FNB Sydney goes on hiatus due to lack of volunteers. Serving food at Redfern Station is considered for the future.

25 Jan 2015 - Food is cooked and served at Monster Mouse as part of "DIY Hard" where bands will be playing. Patches are made for FNB Sydney.



The artwork that was used to make patches for the 2014 chapter.

Garlic Clove Theory vs Praxis

1 Clove = 3 Cloves

2 Cloves = Half Bulb

3 Cloves = Whole Bulb



Imagine copulating, surrounded by food...



Aporocera sp.

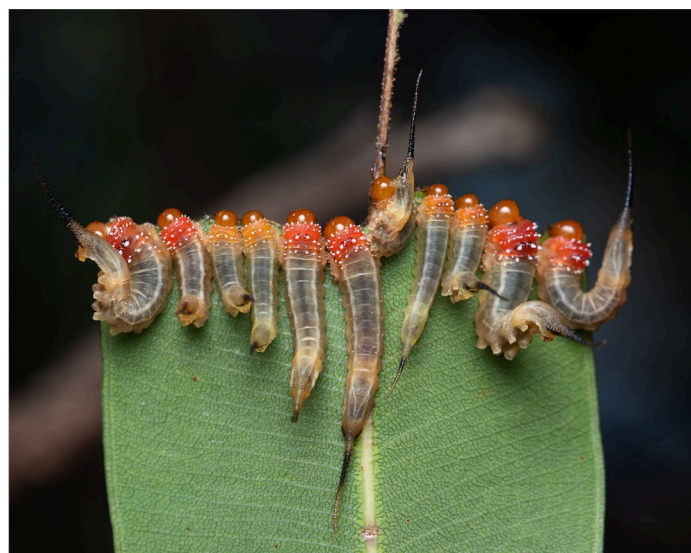


Imagine defending someone...
and they help you
the excess food that they produce...

Tribe Eurymelini and *Iridomyrmex mayri* mutualism



Imagine sitting down side by side with your mates
and eating together, morning and night...



Lophyrotoma sp.

Critique of the Australian military from the perspective of an infantry soldier

A few months ago, I spoke with someone who is deployed in the Australian military and they vented some unusual frustrations about the military that I hadn't heard yet. Before I share the following critique, it's important that I outline the intentions that this person had when joining the military. This person is not against war and can be largely considered politically right-leaning. They joined the military partly due to an obsession with efficiency, the logic being that a nation state would have a vested interest in providing the most efficient form of fitness training, the best technology, gear, and organisational structure. What follows is a series of direct quotes from this person, reproduced here with permission. The purpose of sharing this information is to challenge common misconceptions about our military because, although this person is politically opposite to me, we both had the same initial misconception about the Australian military, viewing it as this highly efficient organisation.

Them

my biggest problem with the military is that I was expecting a higher level of performance because if losing meant death then surely people would care about winning?

but everyone good has left the military or gone into specific places. Only shitters remain and this results in the most wasteful organisation in the world. Wasting time, money, resources, training, people, etc.

I was expecting world class efficiency, something like a competitive sports team. Instead its closer to like a misbehaving high school class, but theres no teacher, and the longer people have been in the more they have power over others

and I should state that this is specific to australia. Other militaries have their own issues sure, but france and Uk seem to have an actual working system. USA, AUS and all the other yankabu* countries all are just shit places to be, because all the high up good people left when the government made them go on stupid wars and do stupid shit

and if you think these militaries are at all powerful, then I think its worth mentioning that these organisations struggle to achieve basic tasks such as moving their people, providing food to their own people, doing anything they say they are going to do, etc. Hence why they constantly get beaten by farmers and civilians and they cant achieve those basic tasks in peacetime.

Me

ye thats kinda the main takeaway point i wanted to write about. that a lot of activists do see it as this scary efficient organisation

Them

yea but I think its worth pointing out that it isnt a problem with militaries in the abstract sense, but specfic militaries at the current time

like tomorrow they could just decide that instead of promoting people who are horrible and legitimate villains, we could just get rid of them instead

then the military would be unstoppable

if something sucks then the person responsible for it sucks. The government currently sucks and they have control over the military and have made it suck

like yankabu or US militaries, or anyone trying to copy US military (e.g. china) are all bark no bite

I wouldn't take on france or uk tho

yankabu militaries probably spend around 0% of their time doing military activities

which sounds absurd

but is entirely true

you have riflemen in the army who havent shot a rifle in 3 years

and thats not the average sure, but the average person has likely gotten worse at his job the longer he has stayed in it

like 0% of time at work is spent doing military training, thats the point im trying to make

its just a fake job

**yankabu: obsession with America (derived from weeaboo - obsession with Japan)*

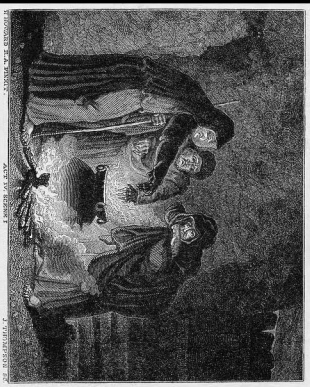
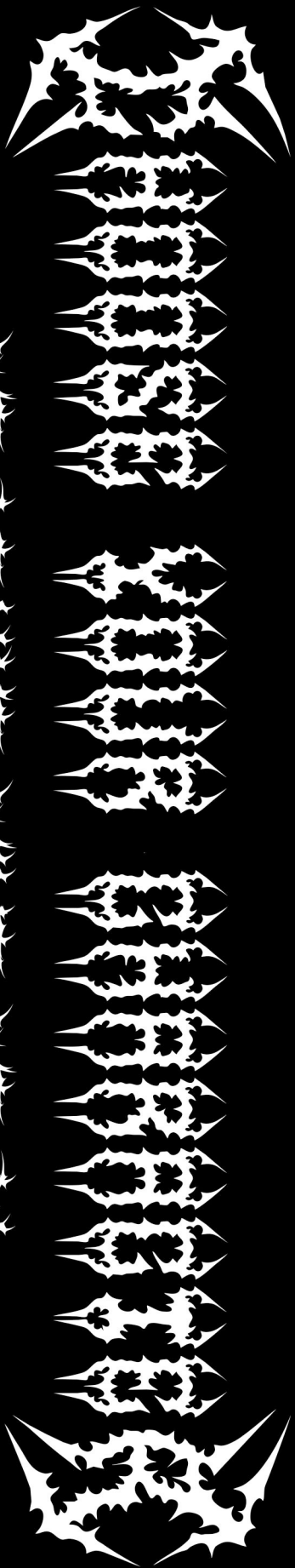
Other anecdotes shared with me in person included descriptions of negligence amongst higher-ups not respecting classified documents (leaving them out on tables, not shredding them, etc.), and a persistent issue with infantry soldiers often sharing confidential information on social media, usually by accident (e.g. sending a Snapchat selfie that reveals confidential information from a slideshow behind them, or information about their current location). Mandatory online training exams that were meant to prepare soldiers for using certain equipment/weapons/vehicles usually would have a single person skipping to the end of the exam to get the answers. Using their phones, they would then relay these answers to all their other mates so they could fly through an extensive exam in 2 minutes, without having to read anything. Overall, the general culture is "hurry up and wait", which involves a lot of sudden movement from one location to another, only for soldiers to stand around doing nothing for two weeks, blowing their money on alcohol and scrolling through TikTok.

There were also other frustrations shared with me that began to sound Kafka-esque, involving a lot of bureaucratic processes which higher-ups were not following consistently. This led to soldiers being sent back and forth between different bureaucratic offices that were contradicting one another, being stranded at certain locations because of miscommunications between higher-ups, and general incompetence across the board. Rules were followed by higher-ups only when it suited them, and people who annoyed the higher-ups were more likely to get promoted so that the higher-up could send them off and be someone else's problem.

While much of this information may not sound too different from certain corporate jobs or any generic hierarchical bureaucracy, this information has been shared here because I personally found myself with an initial expectation that the Australian military would somehow be "above" this sort of inefficiency. While I agree with this person that such inefficiencies may not be a problem with ALL militaries, I should note that myself and Food Not Bombs Sydney as a whole, have no interest in "fixing" this inefficiency, as we are inherently against war.

The main takeaway is this: if you are actively fighting for a better future and opposed to the false legitimacy of the government, don't assume that the Australian military is highly efficient. In fact, you can assume a lot of the time that they are rather incompetent. Whether this is true for the Australian Navy or Air Force, I cannot say.

If you're reading this and you're more of the reformist type, the takeaway here is that the Australian military is absolutely pissing away its \$30,000,000,000 yearly budget. Money which could be used to feed people instead.



COOK

- Blade Wizard - Can sharpen a spoon on the bottom of a mug.
- What's this vegetable? Fucked if I know: Olive Oil, Sumac and Roast.
- Singin' Missy Elliot in the kitchen with the girlfriends.
- Cauldron owner. Feared by local clergy.



ORGANIZER

- Kvnt who knows kvnts
- Shit's getting done
- Cryptochat demon – don't even ask their real name.
- Leadership energy, but cute about it.
- Hates hierarchy.



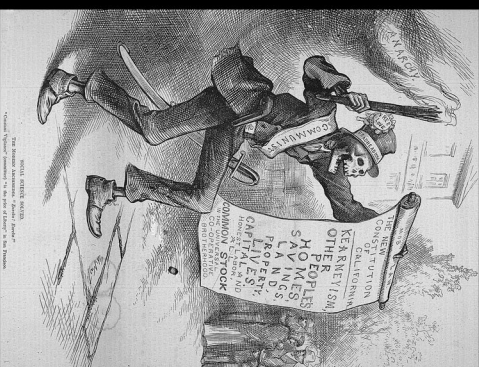
DIVER

- +10 STEALTH, +8 ACROBATICS, +12 ACAB
- Black hoodle queen
- Uncanny sense of smell.
- Automatic Hero Status.



DELIVERISTA

- Vehicle haver (possible wild steed tamer).
- Nimble. Poised. Can drive with bowl of soup on lap.
- Biceps.
- Rollin' with the homieees



PROPAGHANDIST

- Arts kid. Wildcat Journalist. Cool haircut haver.
- Deepest memestash.
- Funny kvnt.
- Professional smartass.



MISC

- Make something up.
- I'm not your boss. No Gods. No Masters.

SERVER

- Rizz.
- Friends in weird places.
- Well respected by local wildlife.
- Cute demilitarisation conversationalist.
- Sudden Outdoor Voice.



