RECLAIMING THE URBAN COMMONS

The Past, Present and Future of Food Growing in Australian Cities and Towns
Edited by Nick Rose and Andrea Gaynor
RRP $29.99

Sewn together like a patchwork quilt, these stories, these projects, these individuals and their common visions have been connected with the experience of the past, the reality of the present and most importantly the hope and vitality of a shared food secure future. Travelling the country I get to see so many inspiring individuals shifting the status quo and growing change. Reclaiming the Urban Commons brings many of these early adopters, the change makers, the resilient and the determined together in one place. It is a must read for everyone who eats food.

Costa Georgiadis

- New book focuses on urban food growing in Australia
- Argues that change begins with an understanding and connection with the food we produce and consume.

We are in the midst of a great shift, a fundamental transformation in our relations with the earth and with each other. This shift poses humanity with a challenge: how to transition from a period of environmental devastation of the planet by humans to one of mutual benefit? How do we transform our relationship to the land, non-human lifeforms, and each other? Reclaiming the Urban Commons argues this change begins with a deeper understanding of and connection with the food we produce and consume.

This book is a critical reflection on the past and the present of urban food growing in Australia, as well as a map and a passionate rallying call to a better future as an urbanised species. It addresses the critical question of how to design, share, and live well in our cities and towns. It describes how to translate concepts of sustainable production into daily practices and ways of sharing spaces and working together for mutual benefit, and also reflects on how we can learn from our productive urban past.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Dr Nick Rose is a specialist in the emerging fields of sustainable food systems, food sovereignty and food security. Nick received his PhD in Political Ecology from RMIT University for investigating the transformative potential of the global food sovereignty movement. During and after his PhD, he co-founded and coordinated the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (2010-2015), where he was one of the developers of Australia’s first crowd-sourced food policy document, the People’s Food Plan, jointly coordinated Fair Food Week, and was the Content Director of Australia’s first food politics documentary, Fair Food. He is the Executive Director of Sustain: The Australian Food Network.

Andrea Gaynor is an Associate Professor of History at The University of Western Australia. An environmental historian, her research seeks to use the contextualising and narrative power of history to help solve real-world problems. Her doctoral research on the environmental history of food production in Australian cities was published by UWAP in 2006 as Harvest of the Suburbs. Her interests and expertise have expanded to encompass WA environmental history, agricultural history, animals in history and the history of fish and fishing. Andrea is the Chair of the History Discipline Group and Director of the Centre for Western Australian History at UWA.

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